Florida WILDLIFE

Fishing · Hunting · Conservation ·

Forty Winks Afield
The Little Trio

MAY, 1959

The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen

25 CENTS

FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

Fishing Citation

"for that BIG ONE that DIDN'T get away"

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

Citation, showing recorded data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

SPECIES

LARGEMOUTH BASS ..... 8 pounds or larger	SHELLCRACKER ..... 2 pounds or larger
CHAIN PICKEREL ..... 4 pounds or larger	BLACK CRAPPIE ..... 2 pounds or larger
BLUEGILL (BREAM) ..... 1½ pounds or larger	RED BREAST ..... 1 pound or larger

CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date_____
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name_____ Address_____

Species of Fish_____ Weight_____ Length_____

Type of Tackle, Bait Used_____

Where Caught_____ Date_____

Catch Witnessed by_____

Registered, Weighed by _____ at_____

_____
(Signature of Applicant)

VOLUME 12 NO. 12

Florida WILDLIFE

MAY, 1959

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

★

Dedicated to the
Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game And Fish

★

BILL HANSEN, Editor

WALLACE HUGHES, Art Director **C. L. SATTERFIELD, Circulation**

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public has much at stake in

STATE WATER LAW REVISION

WATER-USE LEGISLATION will be the major item that conservationists must watch and endeavor to shape in the public interest in many state assemblies during 1959. A movement to put new water laws on the books has been gathering speed for several years, spurred by increasing competition for available supplies—supplies that aren't growing but in many areas have been dwindling due to pollution, drainage, abuse of watersheds, and overpumping of underground stores. New pressures include the mounting demands for industrial uses and the spread of supplemental irrigation through midwest and eastern farming areas.

The legislatures of many states have grappled with water law revision in recent years. A few have passed new laws. Most have stalled in the attempt, finding the subject difficult and highly controversial.

The promotion of "model water use acts" by influential agencies will give the movement new impetus this year. Therein lies the need for citizen alertness. No state is likely to adopt the "model" act exactly as proposed, and even the "model" currently proposed has obvious shortcomings.

Every special-interest group will be doing its utmost to shape the bills to its own advantage. Irrigators, wanting a legal green light for pumping streams dry, will clash with industrial and navigational interests. Municipalities will be fighting for future supplies. The general public, needing to keep some water in the streams and lakes for conservation and recreation purposes, will be faced with the hardest battle of all because established law and legislative tradition tend to favor use for private gain. Moreover, the public's lobbies are seldom well organized and never well financed.

Two potent agencies are recommending the same "model water use act." They are the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, with headquarters at 1155 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago, and the Council of State Governments, 1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago. The latter group, which has been increasingly influential in state legislatures, will be acting through its Committee on Suggested State Legislation.

This proposed law grew out of studies and conferences conducted by the Legislative Research Center of the University of Michigan Law School at Ann Arbor, which has published a thick volume entitled "Water Resources and the Law."

The proposed "model act" undertakes to steer a middle course between the doctrine of appropriative use—"first in time, first in right"—that evolved in the arid western states, and the historic, inherited doctrine of riparian rights followed with variations in the eastern states. It would set up a five-member state water resources commission that would have power to make regulations and grant permits for use and development of streams, natural lakes, impoundments, and other surface and underground supplies.

The commission also would be put in charge of water pollution control, a function already served in most states by the Health Department or by a special agency. An obvious weakness of the "model act" is a narrow policy-declaration that water resources "must be protected from pollution in the interest of health and safety of the public." The public interest in preventing pollution is much broader than "health and safety." Water-dependent natural resources must also be conserved and the community's economic welfare must be protected.

In other places the "model act" is watered down in the usual fashion insisted on by polluting industries, as where, in suggested alternate language, the commission would be instructed to establish water-quality standards taking into consideration "feasible and available means of pollution treatment." This kind of language provides a great big loophole and excuse for doing nothing if a polluting industry puts on the pressure.

The policy section declares, among other objectives: "The water resources of the State must be protected and conserved to assure adequate supplies for public recreational purposes and for the conservation of wildlife and aquatic life." However, there is nothing in the draft to require coordination or even consultation with the game and fish department, the state park department, or other agency having responsibility for recreational resources. Principles and procedures similar to those of the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act should be written into any comprehensive state water law, else it isn't comprehensive.

One alternate plan for the make-up of the water commission would designate the director of the Health Department, the director of the Conservation Department, and the State Engineer to serve along with appointive commissioners. This might work, depending upon other provisions of the law and the number and qualifications of the appointive members. Another proposed section de-

THE COVER—

To the "bream" fisherman in Florida, there are some species that go by unrecognized and unidentified. Three of these are the Redbreast, Flier and Long-ear, featured this month in a special article The Little Trio, page 12. For identification purposes, a check of the cover painting shows the more popular Redbreast pictured at the lower-center. The Long-ear appears at the upper right, and the Flier is shown to the left-center.

COVER BY WALLACE HUGHES

clares that no other state or local governmental agency "may enforce any ordinance, rule or regulation that affects the use of water resources . . . if the (Water) Commission has disapproved the ordinance, rule or regulation."

The influence of western doctrine is apparent in the "model act's" definition of "beneficial use." This, it says, "means a use of water, including the method of diversion, storage, transportation, and application, that is reasonable and consistent with the public interest in the proper utilization of water resources, including, but not limited to, domestic, agricultural, industrial, power, municipal, navigational, fish and wildlife, and recreational uses."

Conservationists should insist that any final enacted listing of so-called beneficial uses must make clear that no preference is established. Decisions as to priority in any case should be left to the judgment of the commission, recognizing that in one instance, use of a water supply for industry, or for municipal supply, or for irrigation, might serve the highest purpose in the public interest. In another instance, depending upon the public need and other circumstances, management of a lake or stream for fish and wildlife, or preservation of a minimum flow for recreation, might serve the highest public interest.

One great weakness of western water law is the rigid preference given certain uses; some western states have granted no legal standing whatever to the public need to use water resources for recreation or for fish and wildlife management purposes.

The "model act" does not define "public recreation." The term could be interpreted narrowly by the commission and by the courts as meaning, for example, only boating and picnicking on the shore, excluding fishing and swimming. Thus a polluted stream might be held to be adequately protected for public recreational purposes if the bottoms of

(Continued on Page 35)

some facts concerning a uniform

Fresh Water Fishing License

ADOPTION OF THE proposed change in Florida's resident *fresh water fishing license* would result in an estimated $289,768 per year that would be used mainly for fisheries development work.

The change would result in a uniform $2.00 license applying to ALL residents in the age group of 15 through 64 years. The change would have no effect except repeal of the current clause that exempts from license those residents fishing with cane poles in their home counties.

In discussing funds that would result from such a change, plans call for investing such additional revenue in a four-point fishing improvement program. Improvements needed throughout the state include: reconditioning, maintenance, expansion, and capital investments on public waters, boat ramps, and access sites.

Fresh-water reconditioning work would include additional control of undesirable fish and excessive water vegetation, where needed. Since many of Florida's lakes have sterile waters which cannot support a balanced game-fish population, the work would also consist of using modern fisheries management techniques to balance and increase fertility, and fishing, in barren lakes.

After the lakes are reconditioned, a maintenance program is required. This maintenance work consists of periodic applications of vegetation control spray, selective roughfish poison, or fertilizers, and dam and water control device maintenance work.

Expansion of Florida's fishing facilities would include; first of all, acquisition of public fishing waters or rights, and access sites. Although Florida claims to possess 30,000 fresh-water lakes, only about 200 are clearly in legal public ownership. A comparatively small number of the remaining lakes are clearly in private ownership, while ownership of the vast majority can be termed as "legally clouded."

Acquisition work would include possible legal steps to clarify ownership where 'clouded,' or to obtain or lease public fishing rights where ownership might be private, or complicated. Much of this work would be done in conjunction with acquiring access sites, and the construction of boat ramps.

Additional expansion work would be the possible introduction of tested new species of game fish into specific areas where conditions and waters are suitable. Possibilities being considered are land-locked striped bass and white bass.

Expansion would also include some increased and diversified water patrol equipment for law enforcement, increased fish hatchery facilities, and additional water and fish investigation work.

Capital improvements call for the construction of small dams or low-level water retention devices to either enlarge waters or hold high water levels without interfering with rapid drainage of flood or excess water conditions. Clearing of public access sites and construction of boat ramps would also be included.

The general feeling is that the expansion of these programs is actually a capital investment in the future of Florida's wildlife and fisheries resources to make outdoor recreation more appealing to both residents and tourists. Any such increase in money would allow an increase of present activities which are, beyond question, improving Florida's fishing facilities. ●

FLORIDA CLUB NEWS

Federation Notes

By CHARLES WATERMAN

OFFICERS OF THE Florida Wildlife Federation have outlined a procedure for supporting the Federation's legislative program.

A headquarters for Federation legislative representatives has been established at the Kinsey Motel in Tallahassee, and the headquarters can be reached by evening telephone calls during the legislative session. Groups interested in supporting conservation legislation may best do so by contacting the legislative representatives during the session.

Sportsmen's clubs which are members of the state federation have received printed forms which outline the legislative program and their endorsement of the desired measures is simplified by use of the prepared summary. The summary provides blanks to be filled in by those wishing to lend their support and the forms may then be forwarded to members of the legislature with a minimum of effort.

Briefly, the summary includes proposed measures providing the following:

1. Water traffic control.
2. Water access and undesirable water vegetation control.
3. Wetlands purchase through use of duck stamp revenue.
4. Cooperative regulation of fish in tidal waters.
5. A uniform fresh water fishing license.
6. A salt water fishing license.
7. A bait dealers license.
8. An alligator hunters and dealers license.
9. A wild animal exhibitors license.
10. A frog dealers license.
11. A commercial shooting preserve license.
12. A repeal of the Sunday hunt law.
13. Control of foreign reptiles used for exhibition purposes.

Groups or individuals not wishing to endorse the entire program may easily cross out measures not supported.

Scholarships

Two scholarships have been conferred upon Florida Conservation Fund applicants by the educational committee of the National Wildlife Federation at a recent convention session.

The awards went to **Horace Loftin** of Tallahassee, whose work will be in conservation education and public relations; and to **Howard Jenni** of the University of Florida, for a doctorate thesis concerned with Florida wading birds.

Another scholarship award will be announced soon.

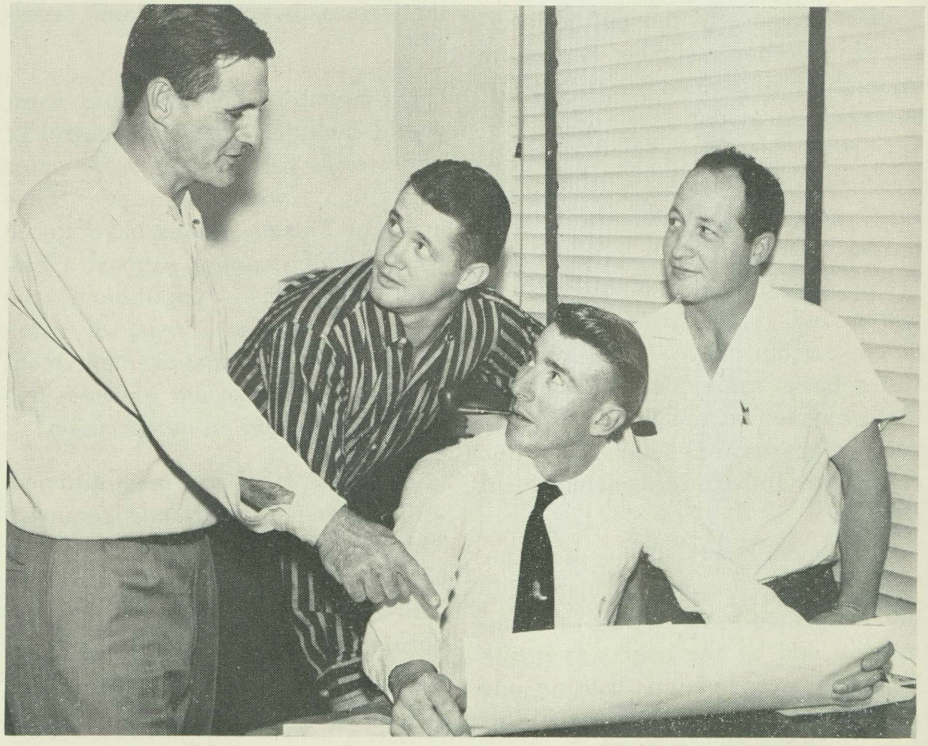
National Meet

Three Floridians were representatives at the recent convention of the National Wildlife Federation. They were A. D. Aldrich, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission; Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation and Fred Sturges, coordinator of senior sportsmen's clubs.

Highlights of the convention were a forum on the use of insecticides and their effect upon desirable wildlife and a forum on water quality control. These two half-day sessions were headed by leading national authorities on the subjects.

Principal social event of the convention was a banquet staged by the Hawaiian delegation featuring entertainers imported from Hawaii. The convention was held just before Congress voted for Hawaiian statehood.

Several of the conservation measures advocated at the national meeting by sportsmen of other states were of special interest to Floridians because of nearly parallel problems



Gainesville Sun Photo

At a recent reorganization meeting of the Northeast Florida Second District Sportsmen Association, Courtnay Roberts, seated, outdoor editor for the GAINESVILLE SUN, was elected president. Shown above, from left, discussing district map, are Harry Dorman; Charles Richardson; Roberts; and Wayne Hook, Information-Education Officer, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

here. Some of the resolutions are summarized as follows:

A request by the Wyoming federation that the Bureau of Land Management establish and enforce fencing policies and methods that will not deny public access for recreational purposes where such access is not detrimental to fish and wildlife resources.

A request from the Connecticut league of clubs that the proposed Enfield dam on the lower Connecticut River be denied on the grounds that it would be detrimental to sports fishing and especially to the shad fishery.

A request by the California clubs that a survey be held before the U. S. Forest Service opens certain virgin timber to commercial logging.

A resolution by the California clubs that "squatters" be investigated on the Colorado River and stating that some of them have, without legal right, denied public access to public areas.

A resolution by the national staff recommending study and revision of the Taylor Grazing Act and other public land laws to assure sound multiple-use management of public domain lands.

Committee Meets

A meeting of the joint committee of the Florida Wildlife Federation, the Southeastern Fisheries Association and other conservation groups will be held in the Carrilon Hotel at Miami Beach on May 17. The group is dedicated to the problems of salt water fish conservation.

Aerial Tour

An aerial tour of Florida wetlands is scheduled for May 22 and 23 for the purpose of studying possible application of duck stamp funds in conservation of wetlands. On the junket will be Ross Leffler, assistant Secretary of the Interior; Walter Gresh, regional director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation. ●

dog chatter

By GEORGE CROWLEY

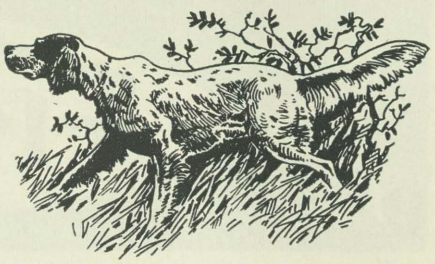
DOGS HAVE BEEN PUT to many odd uses but the strangest must be the use the aboriginal Mexican Indians found for their dogs of the breed we call the Mexican Hairless. That use was as a hot water bottle.

Except for a slight fuzz on the head and a few hairs on the tail the Mexican Hairless is as naked as its name indicates, and its skin is hot to the touch. Applications of heat relieves many rheumatic pains. Even today in back-country Mexico use of a Mexican Hairless dog for that purpose is believed to be the sovereign remedy for "rheumatiz."

In the days of England's first Queen Elizabeth, British gentlewomen used toy spaniels in much the same way. Dr. Johannes Gaius, the queen's physician and author of England's first dog book, referred to these dogs as the "Spaniell Gentle, otherwise called the Comforter." Ensconced on their mistress's laps on chilly days, these dogs' warm bodies and long flowing hair served as muffs to warm cold hands.

The Keeshond, a Dutch dog much like the Norwegian Elkhound in appearance and considered Holland's "national dog" in the way the Bulldog is England's, was used to rally a political party. That was in the 18th Century when the party called Pringezinden, or followers of the Prince of Orange, was opposed to the Patriotten, led by one Kees de Gyselaer. His devotion to a certain dog and of that dog to him made the breed it represented the party's symbol, and gave the Keeshond its present name.

Trained packs of dogs of various breeds have been used to earn their own and their masters' livings as professional rat-killers. Southern India has a dog called the Rampur, as bald as the Mexican Hairless and of the same general type, which is used to kill snakes.



Dog Events of '58

The top ten dog events of 1958, as selected by Harry Miller, director of the Gaines Dog Research Center, New York, are:

1. Sir Vivian Fuchs's 2,000 mile trek across the Antarctic continent with the aid of his dogs.

2. Adoption of a new rule by the American Kennel Club requiring the keeping of dog ownership and breeding records.

3. Winning by Rumson Farm Hayride, Pointer dog, of the National Pheasant Championship for the third time.

4. Introduction in New York City of first "comfort stations" for dogs.

5. Discontinuance after a quarter of a century of the Morris and Essex Kennel Club dog show (Madison, N. J.) — largest one-day dog show in the world.

6. Selection of Dr. Frank Kral, of Pennsylvania, for the first Gaines Award of the American Veterinary Medical Association for his work on canine skin diseases.

7. Dedication at Warrensburg, Missouri, of a statue of Old Drum, foxhound immortalized in Senator George Graham Vest's "Tribute To A Dog."

8. Development of a new surgical technique for early cataracts in dogs by Dr. A. E. Majilton, Miami, Florida.

9. Establishment at the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Cornell University, of a serological test that determines the degree of immunity that a dog possesses against distemper, and the age at which puppies should be vaccinated.

10. Publication of the comprehensive "National Geographic Book of Dogs." ●

FISHING

By CHUCK SCHILLING

MY MAIL OF LATE has had a liberal sprinkling of reader inquiries asking my opinion about whether or not outboard motors scare fish. Actually, the question applies to all motors. There seems to be two main schools of thought on this subject. The first points to so-called scientific experiments, contending that the results from these prove conclusively that outboard motors do not scare fish. These people, in fact, go one step farther by claiming that outboard motors attract fish.

One such test was carried on recently by the Champion Spark Plug Company at Marineland. Using a wide variety of small outboard motors, these experimenters concluded that the fish were attracted to the motors. One photograph taken under water during these trials pictured a large cobia actually striking at the whirling blades of a propeller.

In my opinion, these tests merely prove the fish in the Marineland tanks are remarkably accustomed to an artificial environment and Champion Spark Plugs will work in outboard motors. I am reminded of a small girl down in Texas who has trained a pet bull to allow her to ride him. She uses a regular western saddle and puts the bull thru a series of riding tricks. This does not indicate that all bulls can be ridden by small girls.

Another group maintains just as vigorously that outboard motors scare the scales off fish and that use of a motor while actually fishing is practically a guarantee of an empty stringer. Thus the arguments are either black or white, depending upon which extreme you prefer.

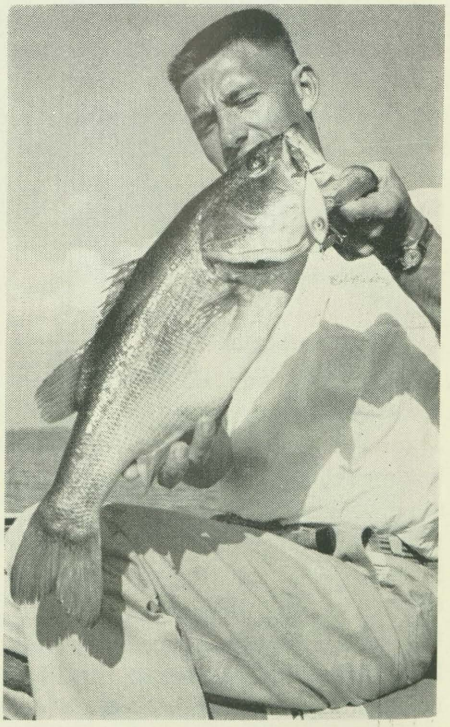
I think this whole problem is much too complex to fit comfortably within the narrow confines of either position. I believe there is a lot to be said on both sides. I, also, am firmly convinced that any motor will, at times, scare the devil out of some fish and that under certain, normal, fishing conditions, the use of a motor on the fishing water will definitely detract from the fishing potential.

Let's for a moment examine the idea that motors attract fish. There seems to be no doubt that trolling for white bass, or even black bass, in the deep waters or artificial lakes will be, on occasion, most productive if the lures are trolled close to the boat in the prop wash of the motor. These fish are either attracted by the motor itself or by the frantic action the prop wash gives to the lure — take your pick.

Fresh-water trout have been known to take trolled flies in this same manner. This is particularly true of trout fishing in big rivers. Deep-sea trolling, also, produces its share of evidence about motors not scaring fish. Many times a lure trolled close to the boat, directly in the wake, will out-perform similar lures fished from outriggers far to the side of the rear of the boat. A Teaser (large, hookless plug) trolled in the turbulent prop wash will attract fish to the surface, who then see and take the following lures. All these and many more instances give rise to the "motors don't scare fish" theory.

On the other hand, flats fishermen, stalking bonefish, barracuda, tarpon, or permit, in these thin waters, regularly share the experience of SEEING fish flush in alarm at the sound of a fast motor breezing along half a mile away. Sea trout fishermen, haunting shallow, weed-grown bays and rivers, know only too well that a motor run over grass flats will usually put an end to the striking fish. Bass fishermen, casting a shore line with muffled oars, know from long experience the value of keeping that motor tilted out of the water.

Of course, I've seen exceptions to these rules. I've seen natives in the Bahamas catch bonefish on chunks of cut bait, using tarred hand lines they toss at the fish from a distance of 25 feet in water 12 inches deep. I've seen many sea trout caught trolling in shallow water, and the same goes for bass and pan fish; but



Outboard motors are so wonderful and bring so many benefits to the angler, it is "gilding the lily" to insist that they also attract fish.

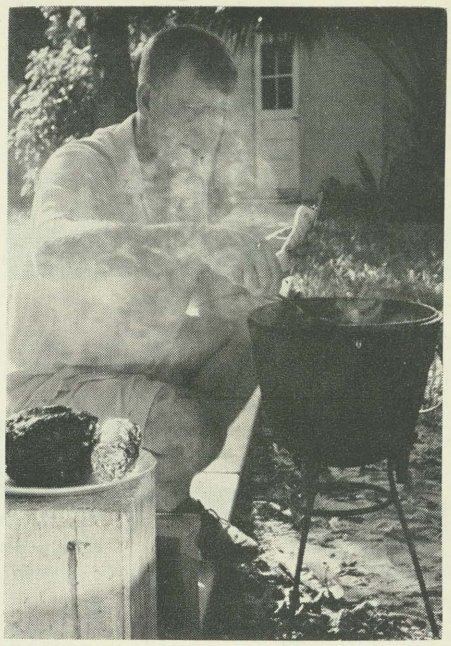
like the Texas girl and her pet bull, I contend these are the exceptions, not the rule.

I think a good middle road to follow is to take the depth of the water into consideration. Fish of all species, as a rule, are boldest and least wary when in deep water. Shallow water limits the fish's direction of escape and exposes him to added hazards from the air. No angler will hurt his chances for success if he avoids all unnecessary, vibration-producing noise in shallow water. This includes running motors.

Lest anyone jump to the conclusion I am taking a swipe at Champion Spark Plugs or outboard motors, let me say at once I am an enthusiastic user of both. I particularly appreciate the new, marine-style Champion Spark Plugs that come plated to resist rust and salt-water corrosion. These are individually packaged in moistureproof, sealed, plastic tubes just perfect for the boatman who keeps a few extra plugs on hand for an emergency.

I am, also, a long-time friend of outboard motors. I am old enough to remember the motors of many many years ago. In those days, we called them by many other names, none of which would fit the format of these pages.

My new Johnson 18 is a far cry from these early models. I have nothing but praise for it. My opinion is that outboard motors came of age with the advent of the clutch and reverse gear and the separate fuel tank. Add the noise dampeners, such as, rubber mountings and one-piece, Fiberglass hoods, and you have outboards just as quiet as their inboard cousins. You, also, have a piece of modern engineering magic that has enormously benefited the angling fraternity. The blessings outboard motors bring to sports fishermen are so many and varied, it is gilding the lily to insist they, also, attract fish. Some fish perhaps yes, but if the water is shallow, cut that motor if you yearn for success or if you want to be popular with your fellow anglers.



The Cook'N'Kettle charcoal broils and smokes fish and sea foods in a wonderfully different way.

The End Result

Unfortunately, my taste does not run to sea food. No fish seems very attractive to me as a table delicacy. Of course, I eat them occasionally and even manage to get a mild enjoyment from it, but it's a forced effort. Of all the fish I eat, I probably enjoy fish fillets prepared in my Cook 'N' Kettle best of all.

The Cook 'N' Kettle is a cast iron pot designed to charcoal broil all kinds of food. The pot has an adjustable damper in the bottom for precise draft control. A bottom grate supports the chacoal, while an upper grill takes the food. Over all is a heavy lid that not only holds in the heat and smoke but permits complete regulation of the fire. The lid turned upside down makes a handy skillet.

This cooking pot is by far the best charcoal broiler I've ever seen. Actually, it is a system of smoking and broiling at one and the same time. The pot has three small legs that can be used either alone or with a wire rack that forms a stand. The whole thing weighs about 30 pounds.

I have been experimenting with various fish and find they all take a wonderful, unusual flavor broiled in this pot. I sometimes broil the fillets in aluminum foil dishes but more often lay the fish directly on the grill or on a circle of quarter-inch hardware cloth I've cut just to fit. The addition of a bit of hickory, bay, or orange wood produces an aromatic smoke that gives to the fish a delightful taste.

Shrimp, too, are delicious so broiled, and even oysters surpass their normal goodness coming from the Cook 'N' Kettle. As a matter of fact, this pot and the recipe book that comes with it are an open door to a whole new experience in preparing not only sea foods but regular foods, as well.

One of the truly fabulous recipes possible in this pot is for chuck steak. For this, I buy a three or four pound piece of lean chuck about two or 2½ inches thick. I cut this meat into serving size pieces and put it in a shallow dish. I then make up the following marinate sauce:

Mix a half cup of olive oil, a half cup of wine vinegar, 2 tablespoons of catsup, a pinch of salt, and a full teaspoon of black pepper. Use a blender or hand mixer. Add to this one clove of crushed garlic. I prefer even a little more. Spread this sauce on the meat, stabbing the pieces repeatedly with a fork to insure deep penetration.

Let the meat soak two hours and then turn the pieces, repeating the stabbing and again covering with sauce. Let stand another two hours. After four hours in this marinate sauce, broil the chuck 10 minutes on each side over a slow fire. Check for just the right degree of rareness by cutting into the middle. I like mine slightly charred on the outside and deep pink inside.

I make a gravy by heating whatever part of the marinate sauce is left. Chuck steak thus prepared is wonderful, tender, and tasty. It rivals its high-hat sirloin and T-bone cousins in goodness and flavor at less than half their cost — but for my money, the Cook 'N' Kettle is best with fish and sea foods. Let's face it — I like steak no matter how you fix it. ●

muzzle flashes

By EDMUND McLAURIN

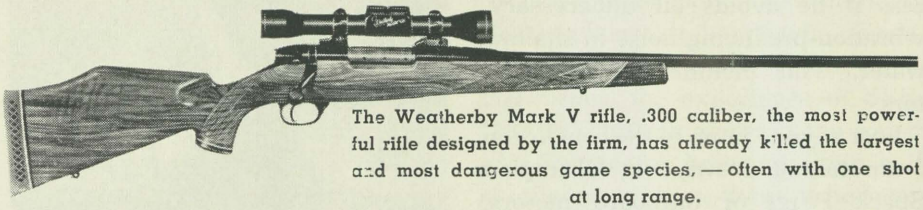
TWO OR THREE summers ago, a big-money prize winner in the national newspaper photo contest of that year was a composite photo — of a youngster sitting on grass-topped sand dune, gazing oceanward and dreaming of himself as a knight in shining armor. It was a good picture and one undoubtedly worthy of the cash prize it brought its maker.

But hunters would have understood its basic theme equally as well if the person in the photo had been an adult hunter snoozing under a tree and dreaming of a Weatherby custom-made big game rifle. Little boys may dream of being knights with sword and shining armor, but big boys — especially those to whom big game hunting is almost an obsession — tend to dream of owning a Weatherby rifle.

They know that the hunting weapons turned out by the firm of Roy Weatherby, of South Gate, California, are regarded as the best that can be had.

Just about everyone wants a Weatherby rifle — doctors, movie stars, foreign royalty, professional safari guides, top Army and Air Force brass, firearms editors and, at the other end of the list, persons you'd seldom associate with love for fine guns . . . Gun Editor Warren Page, of FIELD & STREAM, once told of a cab driver in Hoboken who tenderly hoarded his tips to gradually accumulate a whole rack of Weatherby magnums, and FLORIDA WILDLIFE's Firearms Editor knows of a much similar case . . . . Why?

Primarily because Weatherby rifles can be relied upon to make sensational one shot, long range big game kills. Their secret is increased destructive bullet velocity that literally blasts hunted game into quick, merciful death; few animals hit by a bullet from a Weatherby rifle manage to run at all . . .



The Weatherby Mark V rifle, .300 caliber, the most powerful rifle designed by the firm, has already killed the largest and most dangerous game species, — often with one shot at long range.

It all started when Weatherby, then only a deer hunter and insurance salesman, had a deer get away from him despite a solid hit from a .30-06 — a caliber that can be a killer one time a poor performer the next, depending largely on bullet behavior inside game and whether it hits a vital organ.

Weatherby decided that his .30-06 needed more shocking power. He experimented with various bullet styles and powder combinations, sometimes loading cases close to safety margins. As he stepped up bullet velocity, Weatherby got increasingly satisfying results. Finally, he worked out a matched combination of a heavy load of modern, slow-burning powder, cartridge cases shaped to utilize it most effectively and balanced bullets of proper sectional density. Deer shot by Weatherby dropped in their tracks like they had been hit by a ten ton safe.

So many friends wanted similar rifles that Roy Weatherby soon had to choose between a lucrative insurance business and the uncertain life of a gunsmith. His love of guns won out, and Weatherby-created rifles are now world famous.

They are also expensive, should you insist on having one fitted with a fancy, custom-made stock of mesquite, birdseye maple or walnut. A 300 Weatherby Magnum custom-barreled action, for example, isn't expensive by itself — only about $185.00 — but the complete rifle can cost you anywhere from around $265.00 to five times that figure. Ammunition costs from $6.60 (in .257 W.M. and 7mm W.M. calibers) for a box of 20 cartridges, to $17.50 for the same number of shots in .460 W.M. caliber!

However, once a Weatherby rifle is correctly sighted-in, owners do not need many cartridges if they have sufficient shooting skill to hit their targets. On impact, remaining bullet energy develops immediate, paralyzing, death-dealing hydraulic shock to an animal's blood-stream and nervous systems. Usually, one shot will anchor an animal in its tracks.

Weatherby rifles are not made up in slide, lever and autoloading styles; only bolt actions are used, since that type alone provides the strong, close-breeching mechanisms needed to handle the high powder-gas pressures of the powerful cartridges they chamber.

For customers who already own a good bolt action rifle and who wish it to handle Weatherby Magnum loads, Weatherby gunsmiths will do the necessary conversion work pro-

vided such actions lend themselves to safe conversion.

Approved for conversion are all model Enfield military bolt actions, F. N. and Model 98 Mausers only, Springfield bolt actions with serial numbers above 800,000; Winchester models 54 and 70 only, and Remington models 30S, 720, 721 and 725 only. The Model 722 Remington is not listed among possible conversion models, because its action is too short to alter to handle magnum loads. Also, no existing rifle action, other than Weatherby's own Mark V action and the Brevex Magnum Mauser can be rechambered to handle cartridges of .378 W.M. or .460 W.M. caliber.

In the development of long-life, accurate barrels, Weatherby has been fortunate in having the personal interest and assistance of Henry M. Timken, Jr., president of Timkin Roller Bearing Company, himself an enthusiastic Weatherby rifle owner.

The current crop of Weatherby rifles are being fitted with barrels turned and rifled from a special grade steel that Timken-Weatherby combined research has shown to be practically perfect for rifle barrels.

Although the California firm will supply barrels rifled to customer-specified rate of rifling twist, that which makes one full turn in 12 inches of barrel length is recommended for calibers .257, .270 and .30-06. Tests have proved this twist far more accurate than the 10-inch twist favored by some gunsmiths. For the fast-stepping, light .244 caliber, a 14-inch twist is recommended.

To enjoy the increased range killing power of Weatherby rifles, most owners sensibly fit them with a quality scope sight — usually one of Weatherby's German-made Imperial scopes—in mounts of personal choice.

On his heavier calibers, like the .378 and .460 W.M., Weatherby believes that customers will be better satisfied if they use a 2-3/4 power scope sight; on other big game hunting calibers, a 4X scope is optional. Light-caliber Weatherby rifles used primarily for long range, unhurried varmint shooting are frequently fitted with scopes of higher power.

Improper bullet weight and lengths often are cause for inaccuracy in otherwise good rifles. A bullet that lacks good relationship of diameter, length and weight likewise invariably lacks desired accuracy. A bullet that is too light does not have enough length and weight in relation to diameter, and does not maintain its velocity as well as a heavier, longer bullet possessing accuracy-influencing sectional density.

On the other hand, if a bullet is too heavy to be driven from the rifle barrel with enough velocity to compensate for its weight and developed barrel friction, again we have a poor performer. The ideal bullet is, therefore, one of perfect sectional density. The .30-6 caliber in 180-grain bullet, the 139-grain 7mm, the 130-grain .270 caliber and the 100-grain bullet in .257 caliber come closest to being perfect ballistically.

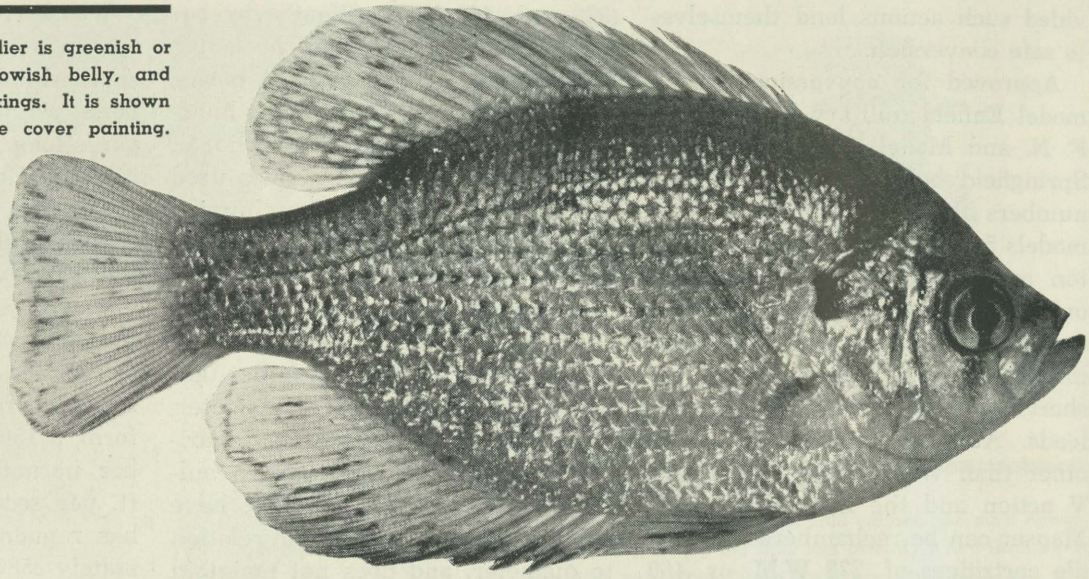
Weatherby has kept all these factors in mind in the development of ammunition for his magnum calibers. An underground range, 100 yards long, right on the factory site at South Gate, permits range testing any given lot of ammunition and chronograph machine recording of the speed of fired bullets.

A typical example of result of research is Weatherby's improvment of the .300 H&H Magnum cartridge. In commercial sporting ammunition form, a 150-grain bullet in this caliber normally develops about 3190 ft. per second muzzle velocity and has remaining velocity of approximately 2580 ft. seconds at 200 yards, yet the bullet will merely make a mark on a sheet of 1/2" special armor-steel plate set up at a distance of only 100 yards from muzzle.

Using a well-constructed tough alloy bullet, also selected for scientific shape and balance, Weatherby steps up the powder charge behind the 150-grain slug so that it delivers approximately 3600 ft. seconds muzzle velocity and is still stepping along at 3095 ft. per second at the 200 yard mark. Tested against the described 1/2 inch thick armor plate at

(Continued on Page 41)

A single shot from the .300 Weatherby Magnum destroyed this 6-inch Eucalyptus tree trunk after test shots from other rifles made only small holes elsewhere in the trunk.

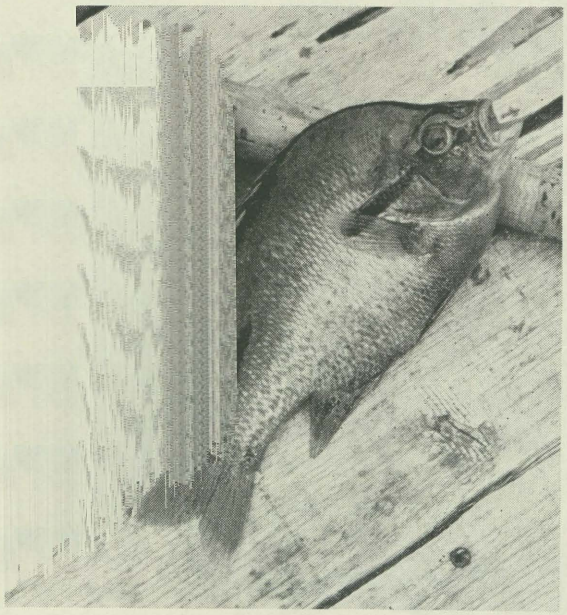


Body coloration of the Flier is greenish or silvery green with yellowish belly, and some darkish body markings. It is shown to the left-center on the cover painting.

THE LITTLE TRIO

Often overlooked, and not considered important, — this little trio is part and parcel of Florida's "brim" catch

By MORRIS H. SHAW



Of the Little Trio, the Redbreast is probably best known. The coloration varies from brownish-gray or olive above, to a paler tone on lower portions. Breast is bright orange or red as pictured on the cover, bottom center.

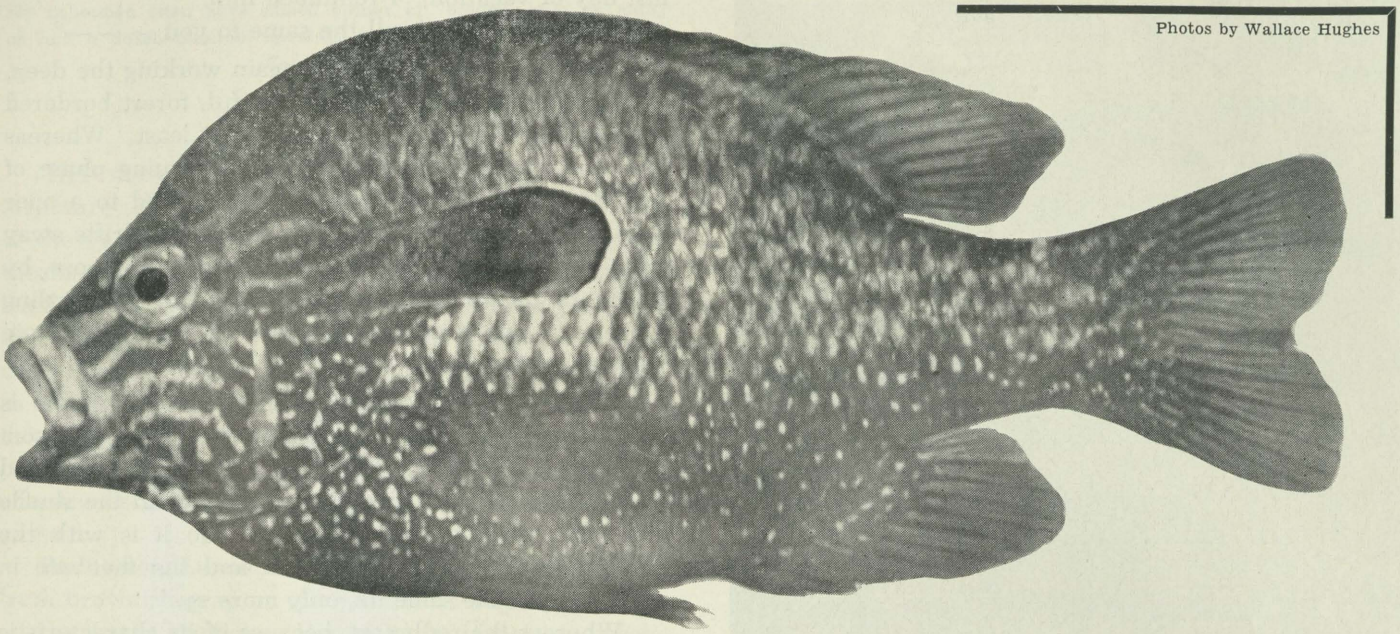
A FEW SCATTERED STARS still twinkled overhead as we trundled the last load of gear down the new-drenched dock to the waiting boat. Moments later we were underway. The kicker hummed its subdued throaty monotone as the bow cut a line through the glassy surface of the river. Within ten minutes of the dock the river began widening perceptibly, then the shore suddenly flared away to either side and we were cleaving the broad placid surface of Lake George.

"Let's try the reeds first this morning," Don suggested. "Sounds O.K. to me," I agreed. Two mornings running we had found the bass eager and willing to do battle in every section of the famed lake we had worked over. But it was a relatively shallow stretch at the southwestern end of Drayton Island that had us both on edge.

The previous morning Don had made momentary connection with a granddaddy bronzeback that left the pair if us gasping. As he cleared the water in a plug rattling shower of spray, the fish's mouth gaped wide enough it seemed to accommodate a five-gallon bucket. Then he was gone. A limp strand of braided nylon and a gradually widening ring were all that marked his passing.

This morning perhaps, one of us would be sitting in the golden chair. All but forgotten were the limit strings of respectable siezd bronzebacks we had managed to extract from the abundant waters of the fabulous lake. It was grandpaw or nothing this morning. And nothing it was. The big boy wasn't having any of

Photos by Wallace Hughes



The Long-ear, shown on the cover, upper-right, is bluish above and orange below. The orange hued check region is streaked with bright blue.

a galaxy of barbed wood and plastic we tossed into his bailiwick. To add the frosting to the bitter cake, neither were any of his lesser kith and kin a bit interested in our offerings.

Later that morning, Don and I were sitting on the end of the dock hashing over the morning's angling fiasco.

"You'd think there would have been one bass that liked the looks of our plugs," Don complained.

"Yep, from the reeds clear up to Yellow Bluff and not even a strike," I commented. "Two days of the hottest fishing a fellow could hope for then bingo! nothing. Fishing's like that, even here." I stretched out in the warm spring sun. "It's a good day to soak up the sunshine and maybe do a little swimming, anyway."

"I didn't come down here to swim and lay around on the bank like an alligator. We have a heated pool at the Y up home, and my wife has a sun lamp I can bask under anytime."

"Humph," I grunted to my partner, and promptly drifted into a misty dream world overrun with slashing, spray-throwing finsters that grabbed a bare hook on every cast.

Sometime later the voice of my fishing partner and another broke through to my drowsy consciousness. I opened one eye then promptly shot up to a sitting position. An overalled gent stood talking with Don. "Red-bellies are eatin' it up," I heard him say. As proof he hefted a cotton stringer festooned with as nice a limit of crimson-splashed panfish as you'll see in a month of Sundays.

"Where'd you find 'em?" I asked.

"Like I was telling his feller here, over in the Oklawaha. They're eatin' it up."

"What did you catch them on?" Don wanted to know.

"Bonnet works some but mostly on red wigglers. Fellow over there fishing with one of them fly fishing outfits was doing pretty good, though."

I looked at Don. "You bring your fly rod with you?" I asked.

"Sure but — — —"

"Better get yourself some wigglers and a cane pole," the overalled fisherman commented. "Fancy stuff's all right for trout and such but for red-bellies nothing beats wigglers and a cane pole."

An hour later, I cut the kicker and we glided into a longdeep hole well up from the St. Johns mouth of the Oklawaha River. I picked up the paddle and worked the boat to within an easy cast of the brushy timber-grown shoreline.

"Drop one as close to the brush as you can without hanging up," I suggested to Don. He stripped line off the reel and smoothly dropped a tiny yellow-bodies Gray Hackle wet fly just below a water-soaked log.

For an instant the little fly bobbed along the surface then slowly sank into the depths. The floating line bellied out slightly in the current, then straightened. Don flicked the rod with a quick upward movement. The line cut a sizzling wake across the stream. The little 2½-ounce "shorty" fly rod bowed under the spirited runs of the hook-stung fish. Soon the beautifully colored redbreast was thumping on the bottom of the skiff.

We paused for a moment to admire the fish. From the tip of his nose to the end of his tail the power-packed little mite measured just a bit over eight inches. At that he was a shade better than the average for a Florida specimen of the species. The olive brown-

(Continued on next Page)

The largest variety of the "bream" family can usually be found in the waters of central and northern Florida. In addition to the popular, and well known bluegill, fair numbers of The Little Trio are caught,— many times not recognized or identified.

(Continued from preceding Page)

ish cast of the back lightened below to a dull grayish white. The breast was a bright, flambuoyant reddish orange.

"Who would have thought a little critter like that would put up that kind of a scrap," was Don's comment.

"You have the right gear to get the best out of them. That helps," I told him. "But let's get with it."

All afternoon we hooked, played, boated, and frequently released redbreasts. The old timer was right; the "robin perch" were truly eating it up that day. By the time we had drifted downstream to the point where the Oklawaha merges with the St. Johns, a sizeable collection of deep-bodied hand-sized red bellies finned in the shaded depths of the livewell.

That evening, after wrapping ourselves around a heaping platterful of fried redbreasts, crispy brown on the outside and succulently white in, we sat on the porch of the cabin overlooking the river.

"What a day," Don observed. "That was real sport. Never thought I'd get such a boot out of catching sunfish."

"Yep, it was fun alright," I agreed. "And maybe tomorrow morning the bass will be hitting again."

"Bass, yeah. They're nice fish alright — — —"

I thought I could see what was coming. "It's your last day of vacation," I reminded him.

"I know and if it's all the same to you — — —"

Dawn found the pair of us again working the deep, fast flowing stretches of the beautiful, forest bordered Oklawaha. I hadn't objected in the least. Whereas Don had discovered a "new" and intriguing phase of the piscatorial game, I'd been reintroduced to a once favorite sport myself. A fellow sometimes drifts away from the smaller gamesters, spellbound, I suppose, by the more glamorous largemouth bass and the dazzling battery of salt water gamesters with which the state is blessed.

The bluegill is something of an exception. So is the shellcracker, especially during the bedding season. Both of these fish have quite an avid following, and justly deserved it is too. But sometimes in the shuffle the other panfish are overlooked. So it is with the redbreast. The long-ear sunfish and the flier are in something of the same fix, only more so.

Whereas the redbreast, because of its characteristic red, orange, or yellow breast region is usually properly identified, or at least recognized as a distinct species, the long-ear sunfish is usually just another bream. The flier, because of its general appearance, may be mentally tabbed as a little different appearing speckled perch.

One reason, of course, is the fact that these three species are a bit more selective in their choice of habitat than is the bluegill, the common "brim" of Florida. Therefore the trio is fished less frequently than the bluegill. At least the long-ear and the flier come to hand less often than their better known, more distinctively marked relatives.

Just how little known are some of the lesser sunfish is borne out by one case in point. Some years back a certain sporting goods store down toward the central part of the state staged a guessing contest. It was a simple sort of thing involving the identification of one fish. In an aquarium in the window of the fishing tackle emporium swam a single eight or nine inch flier. Admittedly the fish was a sizeable one among a tribe that usually average out considerably smaller. But all the characteristics were there. As a prize for correctly identifying the fish there was offered a quality rod and reel. The deadline for the contest close slipped by and the prize went begging. Not one of the many guessers had correctly named the "mystery" fish.

Be that as it may, let's take a look at this intriguing trio of lesser known "bream."

In the scientific scheme of things all three fish belong to the family *Centrarchidae.* Also known as the spiny-rayed fishes, this group includes most of Florida's top ranking fresh water gamesters. The largemouth bass is a Centrarchid. So also is the crappie or speckled perch, the bluegill and the array of other sunfishes that grace our waters.

Fly fishermen often have mixed strings of "bream" with as many as half a dozen different species, — all of the same large family, Centrarchidae!

The more readily detectable characteristics of structure upon which is based the scientific separation of the various group into species offer the angler the means of determining which fish is which. Maybe a sunfish is a bream period, without the finer points of the situation being of interest to you. Maybe, but most anglers would like to be able to identify their catches as to species. It adds something to the sport of panfish angling to know just what has been taken on a particular fishing excursion. Here are the identifying characteristics of the three species now under discussion.

Redbreast, *Lepomis auritus.* The coloration varies from brownish-gray or olive above to somewhat paler on the lower portions. Breast color is bright orange or red. The long projection of the gill flap (opercle) is characteristic. The pectoral fins are short and rounded an dthe opercular spot dark. The scales of the breast region are much smaller than those on the sides. The dorsal fin has 10 spines and 11 or 12 soft rays. The anal fin has 3 spines and from 8 to 10 soft rays.

Flier, *Centrarchus macropterus.* The flier is a circular appearing fish with a greenish or silvery-green body coloration. The belly is yellowish. A series of darker markings on the body, mostly below the lateral line, is the usual pattern. Younger fish have a dark spot on the rearward portion of the dorsal fin (similar to the bluegill in this respect) but it gradually disappears with age. There are from 11 to 13 spines and 12 soft rays in the dorsal fin. The anal fin has from 7 to 8 spines and 15 soft rays.

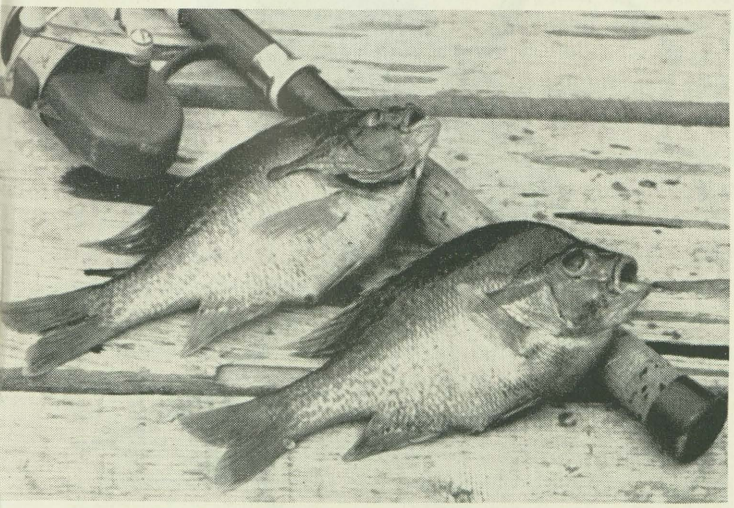


Photo by Bill Hansen

Because of the brightly colored breast regions, the Redbreast is more easily identified as a distinct species.

Photo by Bill Hansen

Long-ear Sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis.* The color is bluish above, orangish below. The orange hued check region is streaked with bright blue. Dorsal and ventral fin rays are bluish, the membranous portion of the fins orange. The rear margin of the opercular flap is bright blue.

A seven inch long-ear is a large one.

All three species show a preference for streams with at least a fair amount of current. In addition the flier is frequently encountered in lakes having connecting streams.

In the matter of distribution, the long-ear sunfish is known throughout most of the Gulf Coast drainage system. In Florida, it is known essentially from the northwestern part of the state and only casually or not at all from other portions.

The red-breast is widely spread throughout much of the eastern portion of the United States with areas of distribution from Maine to Texas. In Florida the fish is found through the northern portions southward into the central region.

The flier is spread through the southeastern lowlands from Virginia into Louisiana. In the Mississippi drainage system it is known northward to Illinois. The Florida distribution of this *Centrarchid* is from the central part of the state and northward.

The reproductive activities of Florida spiny-rayed fishes are the same for all species, generally speaking.

(Continued on Page 35)

I've Got The Blues

By MARGO HOSFORD

THE BLUE JAY IS probably the best known and the most misunderstood bird in the United States. From the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Mexico he survives and thrives and raises his innumerable progeny.

He is one of our handsomest birds. The brilliant blue of wings and tail gleams like jewels. The silvery grey of the breast turns to white spun silk when he fluffs his feathers. The jaunty black-tipped crest with the black strap beneath the throat is worn like a guardsman's head-dress. He is truly a strikingly beautiful bird. And he is rapidly driving me mad!

I have frequently been accused of discriminating against the Jay and I freely admit the charge. In my own defense I must go on record as having tried to keep an open mind about him, but I find it difficult if not impossible. He is the most aggravating character I have ever met.

Lying, gluttony, cowardice and curiosity, theft, murder — name it and he is guilty.

Prevarication? He is a past master of the art. Being an accomplished mimic and ventriloquist he imitates perfectly the dread cry of a hawk, obviously at times just for the fun of frightening other birds. In fact he "cries wolf" so often it is amazing that he is still the accepted "air warden." Yet when there truly is danger every bird in the vicinity is immediately on the alert.

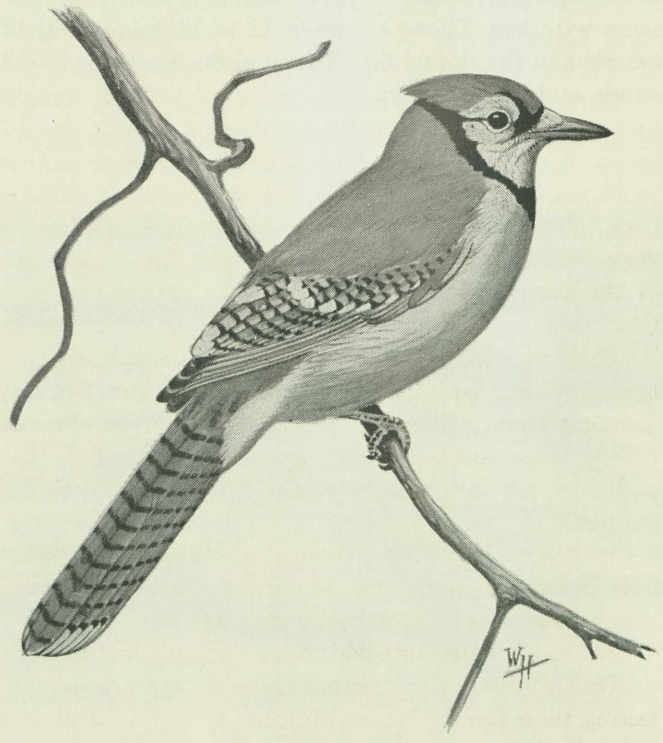
A gluttonous fellow, he likes to be first at the dinner table. Put bread on the board and he spies it at once and screams "DANGER." By the time the birds discover that it is only the old practical joker, at it again, he has snatched at the food as though he had not eaten in a week. Grabbing for the largest pieces he crams as many as possible into his capacious beak. Then he longingly eyes the rest of it as if wondering if he can hold still more. Often he will drop what he has to reach for even larger bits.

Perhaps we should not censor him for his bad table manners. There are others we consider much higher in the social scale of the bird world who appear just as gluttonous. For an example the Brown Thrasher also grabs and stabs at food. He is particularly belligerent during the nesting season and woe to any bird including the Jay, that lands on the board while he is there.

In spite of his aggressiveness the Jay is a cowardly fellow. Almost any bird can call his bluff when in the mood. I have seen a six weeks old Red Bellied Woodpecker chase one Jay after another from the food and then hold it against all comers. Even the peaceable Cardinal sometimes gets enough of his foolishness and turns on him. He is always very philosophical about these brush-offs. He knows when he is licked.

I too sometimes get enough of his foolishness and finally I resorted to using a slingshot to frighten him when he became too annoying. My weapon is made of a violent shade of blue plastic and is more of a toy than a weapon and I cannot hit the proverbial side-of-the-barn with it. I gave up even the bluff of using it when I saw that far from being frightened he thought it was a game. As the small white stone bounded past him and hit the ground, he was after it in a flash to see if he could eat it. His curiosity is immense.

My only defense against him now is a clap of the hands and a shouted "NO JAYS PLEASE!" Surprisingly it works, sometimes even without the clap.



"The Bluejay is
a strikingly beautiful bird"

The Jay Bird is

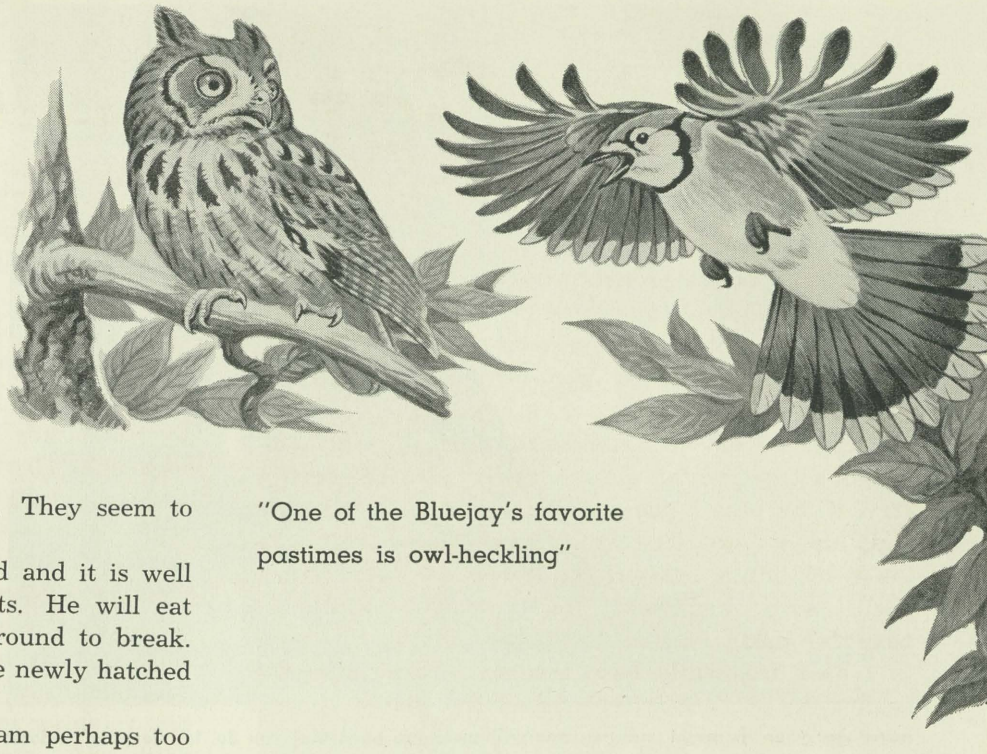
cruel, a thief, noisy, and

a coward. He is

beautiful and amusing,

and I think I am

becoming fond of the clown



"One of the Bluejay's favorite pastimes is owl-heckling"

It disturbs the other birds not at all. They seem to know it is not for them.

Murder and theft go hand in hand and it is well known that he robs other birds' nests. He will eat the eggs or just drop them on the ground to break. It seems much worse when he kills the newly hatched birds. That is hard to forgive.

Each time I begin to feel that I am perhaps too hard on these pesky fellows they do something even more unforgivable.

Last spring a pair of quail brought in their first covey of young. They were minding their own business, feeding on the ground beneath the feeding stand when two Jays in the trees spied them. After a brief consultation the villians started diving at the defenseless chicks. It took the adult quail by surprise but they bravely fought off the attackers and finally drove them away. It was pure cussedness on the Jays' part. They were not being deprived of food and they had no young of their own around. They did not pick on the adults, but only the helpless chicks.

When they believe their own young to be in danger they will go to any extremes to defend them. My sister once received some bad lacerations from a run-in with two angry Jays when she stopped to call on friends. On the gate post as she entered she saw a very young Jay and she spoke to him "most politely" as she passed, (having had previous experience with this tribe.)

With that the parents swooped down and attacked her, stabbing and clawing at her face and actually drawing blood. They were still after her as she ran up the steps and in dodging she slipped and fell, thus adding much to her injuries and nothing at all to her dignity.

When we were very young another sister had a hole pecked in her scalp when she unwisely climbed into a tree where Jays were nesting.

So, to his other sins add that of assault and battery.

During the nesting season the old Jays are quieter, taking their family responsibilities seriously. But it is only the lull before the storm. When the young come off the nest and are large enough to follow the parents around their whining cries for food never cease. Even when they are old enough to be fully capable of feeding themselves it goes on and on.

There is a short period after nesting and during the following molt when there is peace and quiet. It is then that I become more tolerant of them. It is then that I can appreciate the other side of this Jekyll-Hyde character.

Because in spite of the many unforgivable ways of this blue scroundrel he is vastly amusing and against your will you must laugh at the things he does. It is difficult to be amused and disapproving at the same time.

Perhaps my change of heart began when I first saw a Jay take a sunning. He had been eating on the board in his usual untidy manner when suddenly he slumped, apparently loosing all control of his muscles. He lay half on his side with one wing hanging limp. His head lolled and his mouth flew open. I was positive he was dying. Every feather was standing straight out and he looked twice his normal size. When he turned his head and gazed into the sun, I saw that he was merely taking a sun bath and at the same time treating his throat to a good dose of heat.

Other birds do the same thing but none of them can match his abandon.

I am sure no other birds enjoy the bird baths as much as he. He bathes so strenuously, coming back again and again for one more dip that he empties the bath in no time. It must be refilled many times a day.

One of his favorite pastimes is owl-heckling. One Jay will discover a screech owl, taking his daytime nap in the thickest part of a tree. Immediately the

(Continued on Page 41)

Remember your first night under canvas? Chances are good that you do, for sleeping outdoors —even for a single night—furnishes one with memories that tend to last a lifetime.

Forty

By EDMUND McLAURIN

Proper preparation and planning for your camping trip can mean the difference between an enjoyable vacation or an uncomfortable experience

IT HAS BEEN SAID that he who is equipped to sleep outdoors owns many homes, and that, verily, for the sportsman who can remain after he reaches such spots, every remote stream, lake and forest is his to share. . . .

Among memories of personal outdoor sports' experiences, those that have a tie-in with overnight camping usually remain most vivid. Seemingly, sleeping outdoors — even for a single night — furnishes one with a stock of memories that tend to last a lifetime.

Not without reason did Boy Scout leaders declare the acquisition of the Camping merit badge a requirement for Eagle Scout rank, and define the No. 1 requirement of the merit badge itself as calling for the applicant to first camp out a total of not less than fifty days and nights, including ten nights of sleeping under his own set up or improvised shelter.

Eagle Scout or not, you probably can vividly recall most of your own overnight camping trips. Whether such memories are truly pleasant or associated with discomfort can often be traced for cause to the quality of sleep experienced at the time.

Whatever your present mode of camping out, your paramount reason for setting up overnight facilities is to obtain a comfortable and restful sleep close to the scene of, or en route to, planned activity. Much of the pleasure of a camping trip will be directly affected by the quality of rest you obtain during non-active hours. Keep that in mind when you start throwing gear together for your next overnight camping trip. . . . To get a full forty winks afield takes a certain amount of advance preparation and know-how. . . .

To many persons, camping out implies sleeping in a tent.

Many different tent styles and sizes are available. One national manufacturer lists 21 styles in his catalog — so finding one to suit your camping needs shouldn't be hard.

Also, station-wagon living and easy passenger car towing of small trailers to remote regions have had an influence on tent styles. There are now various types of tents and beds made especially for use in conjunction with roadside camping. Many incorporate just about all the basic conveniences and comforts of home.

One of the easiest tent styles to transport and erect is the umbrella or marquee tent. Standing room is enjoyed throughout its interior. One of 8x8′ size will accommodate four persons in comfort. The umbrella tent is ideal for use alongside a parked car.

Wedge-shaped tents, like the lean-to, the explorer, the baker and pup tent styles provide comfortable outdoor living for one or two persons and are also easy to carry and quickly set up.

Probably the best known tent style, however, is the wall tent. A well-erected wall tent makes a sturdy home in high winds and heavy rains. Its disadvantages are that it is bulky to pack, heavy to transport and slow to set up; therefore, the wall style tent is better suited for extended overnight camping than one night stands.

A suitable wall tent for four people is one of 12′x16′

size, with high side walls to give plenty of headroom. Maximum utilization of interior space can be achieved by designating an 8'x12' section in the back of the tent as sleeping quarters and the rest as living space.

Should your present wall tent lack sufficient headroom, have a 24-inch width canvas strip sewn all the way around the bottom edge of the tent's walls, to permit setting the tent up higher.

Every wall tent should have a fly — not the insect variety, although it may well have one or more of those — but a strip of extra canvas stretched over the tent's ridgepole. The created air space serves as insulation against chilling dampness from a wet roof by keeping the canvas dry over sleepers' heads.

Even if the sun is shining when you put up a tent, take time to prepare for possible wet weather. Make sure tent roof and walls are free from wrinkles and sags that might catch water during rain. Also ditch the tent — that is, dig a shallow drainage ditch to a depth of 6 or 8 inches all around it, shaping the ditch straight down to its full depth, then at a slant away from the tent. At the lowest corner of the ditched area connect a run-off ditch to carry off any accumulated rain.

Check to see that nothing touches the roof of the tent, inside as well as out, to avoid a frequent cause of leaks.

If wet weather is surely indicated, cut and arrange boughs or an old blanket as a floor carpet for that area inside the tent where you or others will walk most.

Where weight and transportation are no problem, a roll of mica-surfaced roofing can be carried and cut strips utilized to create a dry, insulated site on which to set up a tent.

No matter how wet the ground, the spread roofing material will provide a dry spot on which to pitch the tent. When breaking camp, the strips can again be rolled and stored in compact form. They are a good idea even if the tent has a sewn-in ground cloth, because of the perfect insulation they provide against ground moisture absorption. Two short lengths can be cut and packed with a sleeping bag, to be similarly used when sleeping in the open.

If your tent has canvas closures and tie-down strings at door openings, discard the tie-downs and install zippers. Also, if it does not have mosquito-netting inside the front closure, add that feature. On

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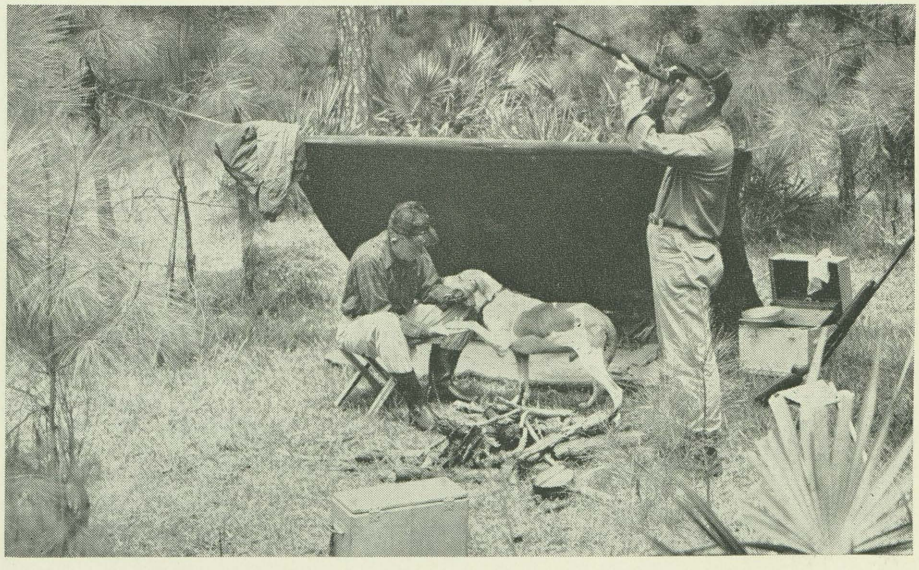
The familiar pup tent is a style that packs compactly aboard and gives excellent two-person sleeping accommodations when set up.



For two persons, a wedge-shaped shelter makes a simple and quickly set up outdoor home in good weather.

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warm nights the net openings will provide better ventilation, while preventing insects from entering the tent.

A stove inside a tent adds much to the comfort of sleeping outdoors in cold weather, but it must be sensibly set up and used, with provision for outside exhaust of created smoke and gases and replacement in the tent of oxygen consumed.

One of the best tent stoves to be had is one of the 10x10x28 inch stoves made for the Air Force, available through Army-surplus stores.

If your tent roof is not already equipped with a vent pipe opening, you can have an asbestos collar permanently sewn in. A press-fit, waterproof cover is kept over the hole when a tent stove is not needed.

A sewn-in canvas floor is another convenient feature you can add to your tent if it does not already have it. The floor serves as excellent protection against insects, dirt and ground dampness.

Sleeping bags are widely popular. The camper who has one can prepare for slumber in short order.

Warmest, lightest and most expensive are models made with 100 per cent goose down insulation. Such bags are ideal for Arctic and high mountain camping and have long life in the face of repeated washing or dry cleaning.

More practical to the average user, however, is a sleeping bag containing moth-proof, mildew resistent, non-allergic Dacron. One containing three to four pounds of the synthetic insulation will normally take care of the sleeper's comfort even if the temperature should drop to zero.

Station-wagon living and easy car towing of small trailers to remote regions have had great influence on tent styles. Illustrated is the Apache model that opens up from small, towed trailer into complete outdoor home.

One sleeping bag now on the market features successive layers of body-warming material. To get the exact degree of top-cover warmth desired, the user merely slips between the cover thickness of his choice.

Whatever the insulation material used — goose down, Dacron, Kapok or waste wool — the sleeping bag's outside cover should be water-repellent but porous enough to permit slow passage of air and body moisture. Otherwise, the pint to a quart of body perspiration that the average sleeper loses each night will condense inside the bag and make it clammy and uncomfortable. Avoid bags that are advertised as being 100 per cent waterproof.

Two common types of sleeping bags are those of rectangular shape and a style designed in the form of an Egyptian mummy.

The form-fitting contours of the mummy style bag hold it snugly around the sleeper, but there is no room in which to roll over. Every time you turn in your sleep the bag rolls with you. For most persons, restricted body movement is more annoying than sleep-inducing. Consequently, the mummy style ranks below the rectangular design in popularity.

Also, two rectangular design bags can usually be fastened together to create a double bed or a full-size car bed.

Another basic feature of the rectangular style is a head flap that can be rigged as a head-tent protection from rain or used in fair weather as a ground cloth for one's pillow. Most of the better quality rectangular bags also come with a compart-

Probably best known is the wall style. It makes a sturdy home in high winds and heavy rains, and is best suited for extended camping trips.

ment for easy insertion and removal of an air mattress.

It is a good idea to make one or two cotton sheet liners that can be slipped inside the slumber section of the sleeping bag to keep the sewn-in lining clean and thereby prolong its life. For real cold country use, the liners can be made of blanket material instead of cotton sheeting. When they soil, they can easily be removed, laundered and replaced . . . just make sure they are tailored from pre-shrunk material, with tie-tapes or snap fasteners to hold them in a smooth shape conforming to that of the bag.

An air mattress can add much to one's sleeping comfort. The inflatable bed foundation is fine so long as it is large enough and easily and properly inflated. When too small for the sleeper's physique, or over-inflated, an air mattress can be more annoying than sleep-invoking. Generally, the air type mattress is used in conjunction with a sleeping bag to create a softer bed.

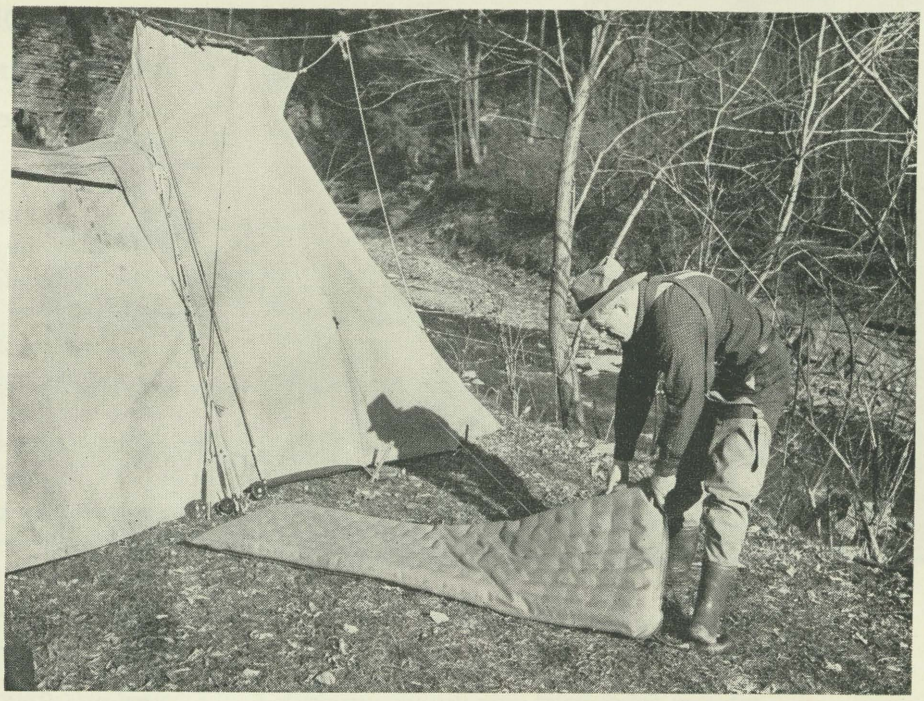
But as cold-retarding insulation, an air mattress is flatly disappointing. For assured comfort, a blanket should be spread between the air mattress and the sleeping bag.

A foot-operated pump aids in quick inflation of an air mattress and is practically a necessity for a short-winded user of this type bedding.

Not so good is the air-inflated pillow. For some reason, it seems to want to gradually work from beneath the sleeper's head during the night, generally disturbing his sleep if not bringing him to full consciousness.

Army-style folding cots are not as practical for woods' sleeping as they seem. True, they provide an elevated, and therefore usually dry, bed and likewise support the sleeper above most crawling insect paths. . . . But their users are apt to sleep cold because of air currents that constantly sweep under them.

Neither a mattress under the sleeper nor blanket thicknesses over him can be relied upon for needed warmth if cold air currents can sweep under the bed. Generally, it takes an extra thick layer of blankets or insulating newspapers to keep the underside of a folding cot comfortably warm. Some users reduce underdraft by spreading a large blanket over the cot and letting it hang down over the sides at a right angle to the direction of draft.



An air mattress can add much to one's outdoor sleeping comfort; generally, it is used in conjunction with a sleeping bag to create a softer bed.

Many readers are familiar with the jungle hammock of World War II fame. The hammocks were standard gear for our troops engaged in jungle warfare in the Pacific theater.

Made with a canvas bottom, a waterproof roof and protective mosquito netting, the hammock was designed to be swung between two trees.

Thousands were manufactured under war-time contracts and brand new models are currently available at reasonable prices through Army-surplus stores.

The jungle hammock is ideal for summertime overnight camping. Where desired, the basic unit can be combined and used with a small sleeping bag of good interior fit.

As in the case of the Army-style cot, it is always a good idea to have twice as much insulating cover under you than over you, because the exposed bottom of a jungle hammock is also vulnerable to cold air currents.

For the inexperienced user, extra tie-ropes will help make a jungle hammock swing just right, while adding little to transportation weight.

If you elect to sleep on the ground, put a waterproof ground cloth—a piece of waterproof canvas, rubberized fabric, your poncho or even an old plastic tablecloth—over the spot where you intend to bed. Your sleeping bag or spread bedding will be protected from moisture and dirt, and your bed will be warmer and more comfortable.

Bone-searching chill that comes from cold ground and gradually permeates body tissues is no joke. Besides causing temporary discomfort, it can contribute to later rheumatism or even pneumonia. Experienced woodsmen know this, and take care to first build up insulating layers of dry leaves or boughs when they must make their beds on the ground without some kind of protecting groundcloth underneath.

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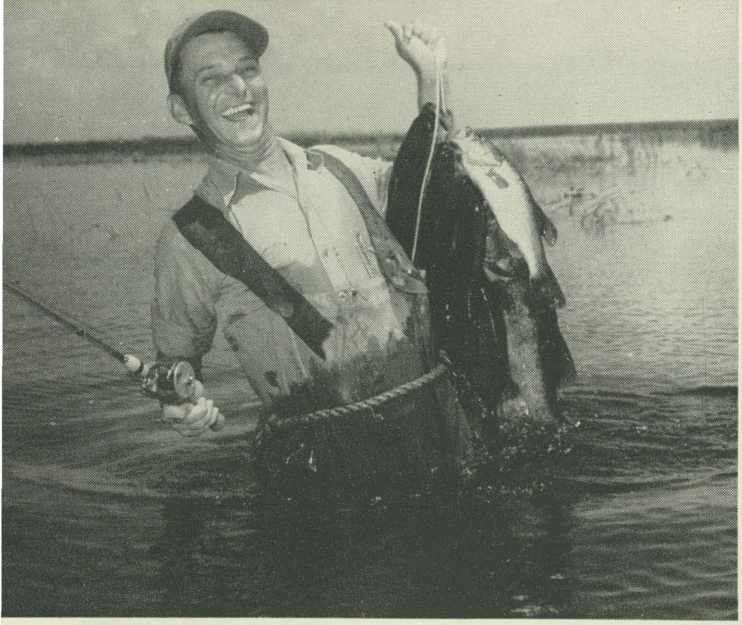


J. W. Kelly of Kissimmee, holds string of those 'Chobee lunkers, taken by four fishermen one morning.

Bonefish TO BASS

By JIM MARTENHOFF

Those Okeechobee lunkers quickly dethroned what I had long considered king of the game fishes

WHEN I FIRST JOURNEYED to Okeechobee I brought with me a collection of spinning rods. They'd served me well on the sunny bonefish flats of the Keys, and even the offshore reefs.

But this wasn't salt water, and the chunky, muscled Okeechobee bass were a different breed. The bass hunters scoffed at the slim stickys and threadline.

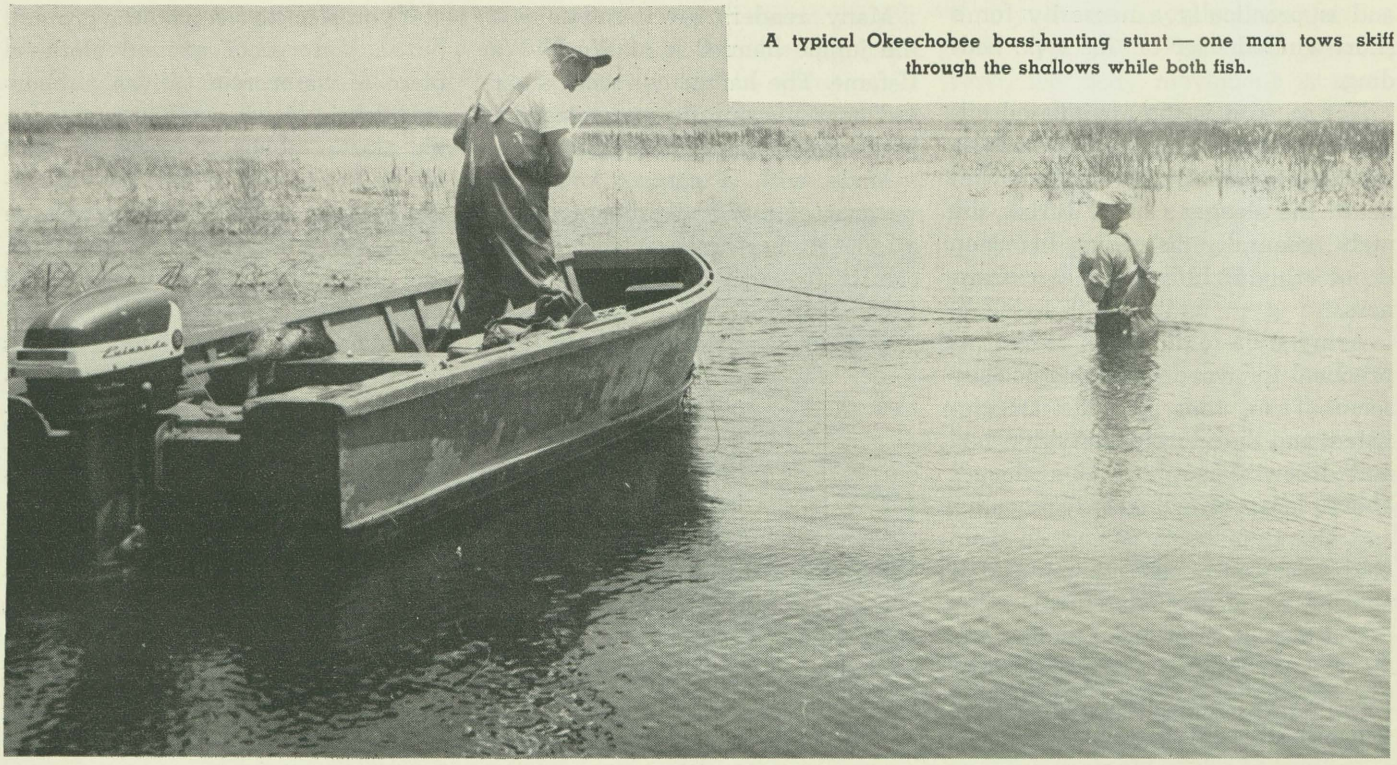
"You'll never horse a big bass out o' the weeds with THAT rig," they said, and promptly offered me a short, husky plug rod. It bore an asthmatic but adequate Supreme reel, packed with 20-pound black, braided nylon.

I muttered about the line. "Where I come from," I said, no self-respecting fish would even LOOK at that rope."

They grinned, and the argument was on.

The heat of the day was still a blushing promise at dawn, when the east was the color of roses and stars still faintly showed overhead. We piled into a flat-bottomed Okeechobee skiff, powered by an 18-horse kicker, and roared through narrow channels to the open lake. We coasted along the bonnet pads, stopped upwind of thick growths, halted engines, and began drifting.

Soon we floated through and over closely packed pads, into the shoals. Open holes of black water, faintly tinged with the red of dawn, pocked the covered waters.



A typical Okeechobee bass-hunting stunt — one man tows skiff through the shallows while both fish.

An action-loaded lunker, left, leaps high as feels the steel. A favorite style, above, is wading the shallows with plug rods. Fish are trailed on stringer, after they are caught.

"You gotta be a landscape gardener to fish in here," I growled, and began casting. Awkward thumbs, long out of practice with a plug rod, created a long series of backlashes until reflexes tuned up and half-forgotten skill returned. I finally dropped a lure in an open hole.

No fish. No strike. But at least the target had been found. I tried again. And once more.

Then it happened. The water boiled, and a chunking sound, loud in the stillness of daybreak, exploded in my ears. The rod didn't bend, like the slim spin sticks I was used to — it doubled sharply with a violent tug that nearly wrenched it from my hands.

I thumbed the protesting reel, and felt uncomfortable warmth growing in the skin as line sizzled over the flesh. The fish, fortunately, stopped in time; before my thumb was fried in its own fat.

That bass staged a battle that would have been more than creditable in the deep, salty waters where I usually fished. To top it off, he hit like the proverbial ton of bricks.

He was finaly brought to boatside — a respectable little lunker running maybe three pounds. My imagination doubled him, of course.

"Pretty good fish, huh?" I commented. My fishing companion gently turned the bass loose.

"They get bigger around here," he said. "No point in keeping babies."

I felt properly rebuked, went back to casting. When the sun had stepped higher in the sky, peering above the morning line of clouds and flooding the water with its warmth, we turned homeward. It had been a creditable day, with limits easily filled. And a host of smaller fish had been returned.

Back at base — Camp Okee-Simmee, in the northwest corner of the giant lake, my hosts filled me in on Okeechobee fishing. This old angler, stumped in the 'Glades areas near Miami by a three-year drought, had put flyrod and plug rod away long ago, turned to spinning and salt water fishing.

Now I'd been re-introduced to sweetwater, and introduced for the first time to Okeechobee. The first question was a natural:

"Is it like this ALL the time?"

It was, they assured me. Mostly, anyway. Ted Lightsey and J. W. Kelley told a host of tales of lunkers lost, of moonlight nights, and rosy dawns.

Out of the tangle of tales, the few possible fibs — forgiveable, of course, to all fishermen — I drew a few comparisons.

My slender spinning rigs, which had handled nearten pound bonefish on flats where there was plenty of

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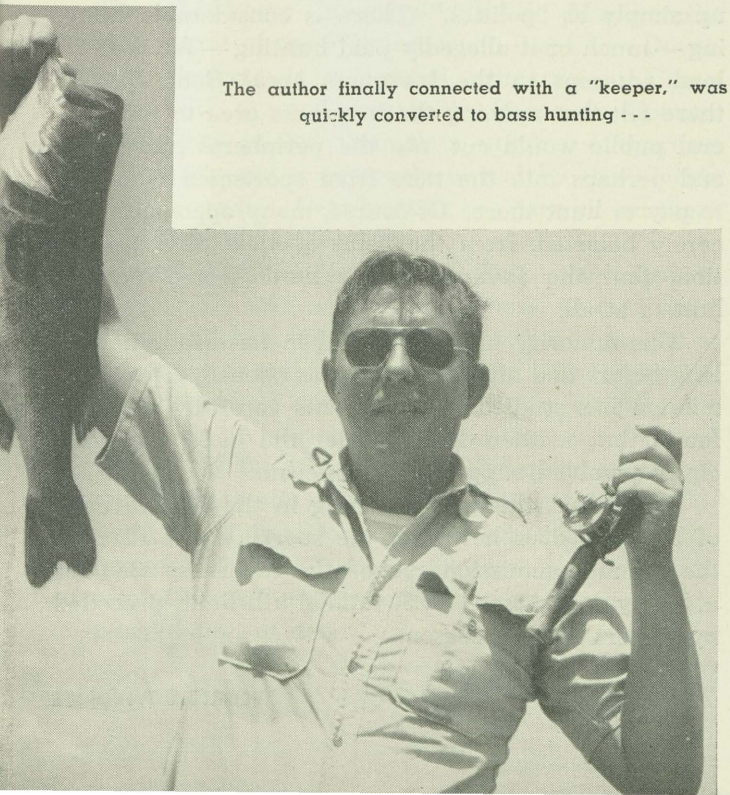
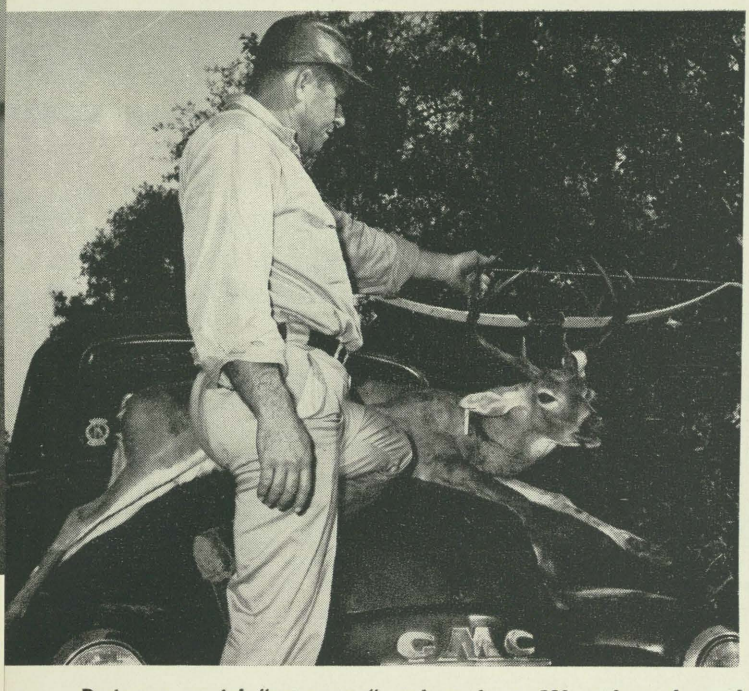


The author finally connected with a "keeper," was quickly converted to bass hunting - - -



During a special "pre-season" archery hunt, 550 archers downed a total of 19 bucks. On the opening day of the gun season, a total of 440 bucks were bagged by approximately 3,300 hunters.

The hunt was short, — the kill was high, — and the uninformed protested loudly. Those who criticized knew little of the true facts behind the

INVERNESS DEER HUNT

By HORACE LOFTIN

IN 1958, CULMINATING five years of intensive study and research, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission opened the 41,000-acre Inverness Wildlife Management Area to a controlled hunt for deer, the first time this deer-rich tract has been opened in 25 years.

The Game Management Division's investigations had shown that the Inverness herd had reached and surpassed the optimum carrying capacity of the area. As a matter of fact, the Inverness deer were found to be twice as concentrated there as in any other known area of the state, though the amount of browse available through the year was far less than for most other herds in Florida.

Thus, in accordance with established principles of good game management, it was obvious that the Inverness herd was long overdue for a needed harvesting. Sportsmen in the Inverness region agreed overwhelmingly with the Game Commission's move to allow deer hunting there. It was time — past time! — to open the area to controlled hunting.

The Game Commission foresaw and expected several problems to arise from an Inverness hunt. Chief of these was a biological one. From experience all over the nation where long-closed deer ranges are opened to hunting, it was expected that the first year's kill would be quite high in numbers, as the superabundant herd is thinned out to a more normal size. In anticipation of this, the Commission's scientists made censuses through several years to establish the number of deer that could and should be harvested.

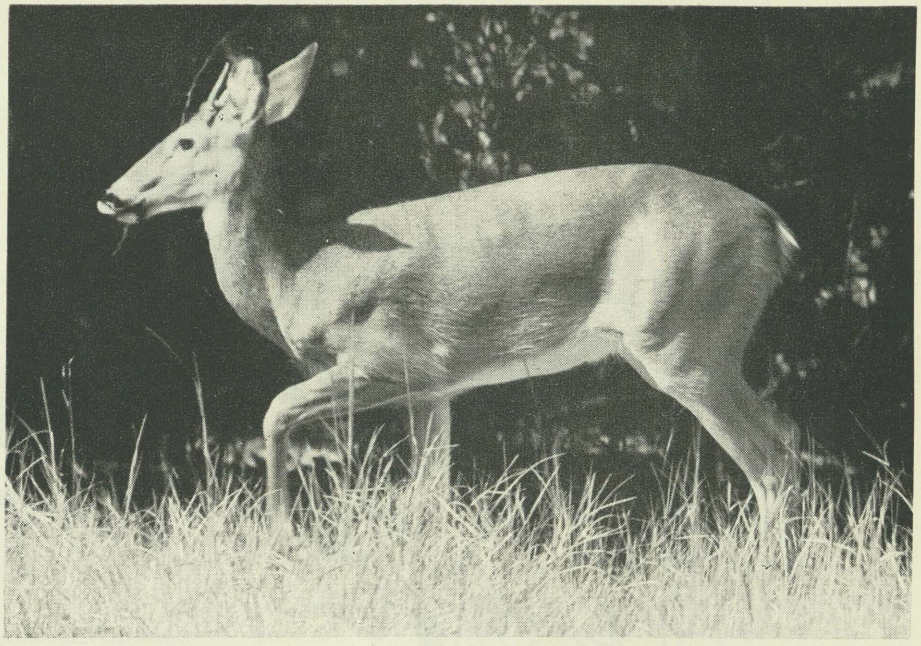
The resulting estimate was, as expected, a high one: some 500 deer could well be taken from the herd of 2,600 animals that first season to the herd's benefit. It is normally expected in a controlled hunt, however, that the actual kill will run past any legal kill limit before hunting can be completely stopped. (For example, how do you tell hunters deep in the woods that the hunt has been completed?) Therefore, conservatively, the Commission set an arbitrarily low deer kill limit of 250 animals for the Inverness season.

Another serious problem in opening the Inverness area — or any long-closed range — can be summed up simply as "politics." There is considerable hunting — much of it allegedly paid hunting — for deer in land adjacent to the Inverness area. Some people there felt that opening the Inverness area to the general public would cut into the peripheral hunting — and perhaps into the take from sportsmen who had to pay to hunt there. Of course, many opponents sincerely believed, from the point of view of conservation, that the Inverness deer herd should not be hunted at all.

This minority has been vocal in its criticism both long before and after the area was opened. The Commission has studied its arguments carefully, but has found that neither the facts nor the biological principles involved support the criticism.

So, certain that it was acting in the best interest of both the deer herd and the sportsmen of Florida, the Game Commission opened the Inverness area for a 15-day gun season or 250-animal kill limit, preceded by a short archery season.

When the 1959-60 hunting season schedule is published sometime in the late summer, hunters will find the Inverness Management Area renamed the **Citrus Management Area.** This is not to be confused with the Sumter-Citrus Management Area which has been in operation for the past six seasons. The Citrus (Inverness) Area runs north and south just west of Inverness. The Sumter-Citrus Area occupies 20,000 acres located in the eastern part of Citrus County and the western part of Sumter County.



After several years of special studies, statistics revealed that the Inverness deer herd remained at about 2,600, indicating that the carrying capacity of the area had been reached several years ago.

On the first day of the gun season, November 15, a total of 3,315 hunters took 440 legal bucks, and the season was immediately closed in accordance with the special hunt regulations. Later studies of the herd have shown that this kill, as was anticipated, will have a beneficial effect on the herd. There should be as many or more deer on the range next season, and the ratio of adults to young should be more nearly like that of other successfully managed herds throughout the state.

The Game Management Division has just issued a full report of the Inverness hunt, including the pre- and post-hunt studies by Commission experts. This is available by writing to the Florida Game and Fresh Water Commission, Tallahassee. Here is a brief run-down on the findings as given in the report —

Before the Hunt

The 41,000-acre Inverness Wildlife Management Area is a unit of the Withlacoochee Land Use Development Project. It is located primarily in Citrus County, with a small acreage in Hernando County. The area has passed through a number of governmental hands and is presently owned by the Florida Board of Forestry. Deer hunting has been closed there since 1934 — nearly 25 years.

Census: Deer censuses have been conducted in the Inverness area since 1954. These studies show that the herd has stood at about 2,600 animals for at least five years and probably longer, with no appreciable increases or decreases though was strictly prohibited. This vividly points out that the normal carrying capacity of the area was reached several years ago. Likewise, the study revealed an average deer population of one animal for every 15 acres. This can be compared with one deer per 40 acres on the highly successful Ocala hunt area, again pointing to a large over-population of deer.

Browse Studies: To see how much green browse is available to the herd during critical winter months, the Commission scientists carried on a vegetation study. They found a total of only 80 pounds of available green vegetation per acre in winter in the Inverness area. This can be compared with 213 pounds per acre for Eglin Field, 257 pounds per acre for Ocala, or 569 pounds for Blackwater! This shows a striking shortage of food in the Inverness area during the winter months, a fact that becomes even more significant when you realize that the Inverness area is twice as densely populated as Ocala, for example.

Pre-Hunt Herd Composition: The deer censuses revealed that some 2,600 animals were present in the Inverness area at the opening of the hunting season. This herd included 480 adult bucks to 980 adult does; 245 each of buck and doe yearlings (between the ages of one and two); and 325 each of buck and doe fawns (less than one year old). Since both adults and yearlings were of legal size, this meant a total of 725 legal bucks were present when hunting began.

Opinion Survey: To find out the feelings of the individuals most directly concerned — Florida's sportsmen! — the Game Commission sent out questionnaires to 3,858 licensed hunters in eight counties near the Inverness area, asking their opinions on opening the area to hunting. On the basis of replies, 80 per cent of the sportsmen contacted were strongly in favor of a controlled hunt. If you exclude returns from Citrus County, approval rises to 89 per cent. All counties polled, including Citrus, favored a controlled hunt.

Hunt Operations

Archery Hunt: From October 25 to November 2, a special archery hunt was held in the Inverness area. Some 550 archers took part in the hunt, killing 19

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A keen-eyed crow will stand sentinel in a tree, screaming a warning of danger

DO ANIMALS TALK?

By ROSS PHARES

Mother Nature has adequately equipped members of the animal world with means for intelligible communication

IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE that any one who has spent an hour in the outdoors could doubt that animals talk. Of course they talk — in hundreds of ways, in many languages, and doubtless by means ingenious beyond the imagination of man. In the animal world a babble of languages more numerous than one would hear during a busy day at the United Nations goes on constantly.

Webster gives this definition of talk: "To convey information or communicate by any means." Can any visitor to the woodlands be so dull-sensed and lacking in information not to comprehend the vital message of a keen-eyed crow standing sentinel in a treetop screaming his warning of approachers, or rehear an age-old story in the impassioned love songs of birds courting and pleasing their mates at the romantic business of keeping the species alive, or think there is no meaning even in the multitudinous buzzes of insects transmitting their mysterious messages to ears that understand? Could any words invented by man shout warning and danger more explicitly than the terrifying buzz of a coiled rattlesnake? And what message can inspire more awe than the song of the coyote? In one verse he can run the gamut from low, lonely, wailing disgust to a crescendo of gleeful every-minute-is-worth-it excitement.

Words are among the most awkward, involved devices of communication. A glance, a wink may say more in a split second than hours of word conversation. A sneer, a "look" may communicate a lasting insult that words of mouth never accomplished. Among animals a wag of a tail, or a flick of the ears may reveal a greeting of friendship or a vow of death.

As a rule animals are at their expressive best during the mating season. The language of live is as colorful and variable as the moods of nature's creatures. The silent bull elk becomes the loudest mouth in the woods, a leather-lunged bugler. The monkey clacks its teeth in the open mouth. And some boys of the animal world stand on the streets — trails, that is — and whistle at the girls. The slow turtle (at least one species) is not so slow at the business of courting. Their whistles can be heard by people as far as forty feet. Perhaps girl turtles hear them much farther.

The lowly termite seemingly is a creature of few words. But its message of loneliness rings out as clearly as any. It knocks on wood, which is something a termite always has convenient. A neat switch from the human custom of knocking on the door to gain admittance, the termite figuratively knocks on the inside as an invitation to outsiders.

The female goat-moth, a wood borer, uses a similar, but more exact, system. She literally beats her brains out for a lover. When she is ready to entertain company she sends out telegrams — in an unvarying code of five knocks on the wood at the end of her burrow, with her head. Unless it's precisely five knocks it doesn't get a rise out of the boys — they know any

other thumps just mean she's bumping around home at everyday chores.

All social language is by no means vocal. An elephant in love may not be unhappy, but he unmistakably looks it. He appears the biggest cry-baby in the woods. He "weeps" all over the place to attract attention of the opposite sex — exuding huge tears in keeping with his size, that trickle down his seamy face. The "tears" are a yellowish perfume secreted from the forehead — and whatever his precise mood the lady elephant gets the message. Wood rats, which usually hold their rendezvous in pitch darkness, rub their sensitive whiskers together in a lively, vibratory rate to get their ideas across.

Some courting messages are visual. The female jewelfish turns a vermillion red. A color-blind male jewelfish is in the worst kind of trouble. A rooster's comb turns redder. So do the buttocks of certain baboons.

The male black spider may make his suit known by strumming his sentiments of love on a harp of a thousand strings — the web of his lady love. If his love song doesn't "send" her, she ignores him. Otherwise she comes out and greets him. Which may mean he has strummed his song of death. Because after mating the female usually eats her string-plucking lover.

Animals do not have to "take pen in hand" to send their communications abroad. A generous nature has provided ways entirely within their means. Their excretions left along the trail generally tell all the news the recipient needs, or perhaps cares, to know. There must be few secrets in the animal world.

The peccary's (wild pig's) post office is any low-hanging brush it may rub its back against. For high on its back are a pair of scent glands which write a highly significant olfactory message on the branches.

The chores of housekeeping and raising a family require a lot of conversing. A mother seal returning after several days at sea will bark and recognize the voice of her answering offspring among hundreds of pups crowding the shore. A mother black bear regulating the affairs of her family converses in sounds that range from low grunts to growling grumbling that means somebody is going to get the daylights wholloped out of him. Separated from her cubs the mother will cry inconsolably for hours. If the babies are lost for long her whimpering may reach a high-pitched wail.

Animals, to survive, must depend, in part, upon warnings of danger from others. This is basic communication. It does not take long to learn to translate the warning signals of the alarmed forest people. Some are quite extraordinary.

The hoary marmot is a respected watchdog of the high Rockies. When his shrill, piercing whistle sounds all ears, perhaps for a mile around, pick up, and all animals stop what they are doing to try to see what the danger is. The marmot is as considerate as he is diligent. When the danger has passed this sentinel gives the all-clear signal — a low whistle. His neighbors understand, and animal business resumes to normal.

In the level country, prairie dogs post sentinels to tell members of the colony when danger approaches. They sound off with a whistle-through-the-teeth type of warning for those in the open, and thump the ground with their tails — apparently to set off an earth vibration code.

A bighorn sheep voices warning by a snorting sneeze. And he tells how angry he is by the way he grinds his teeth.

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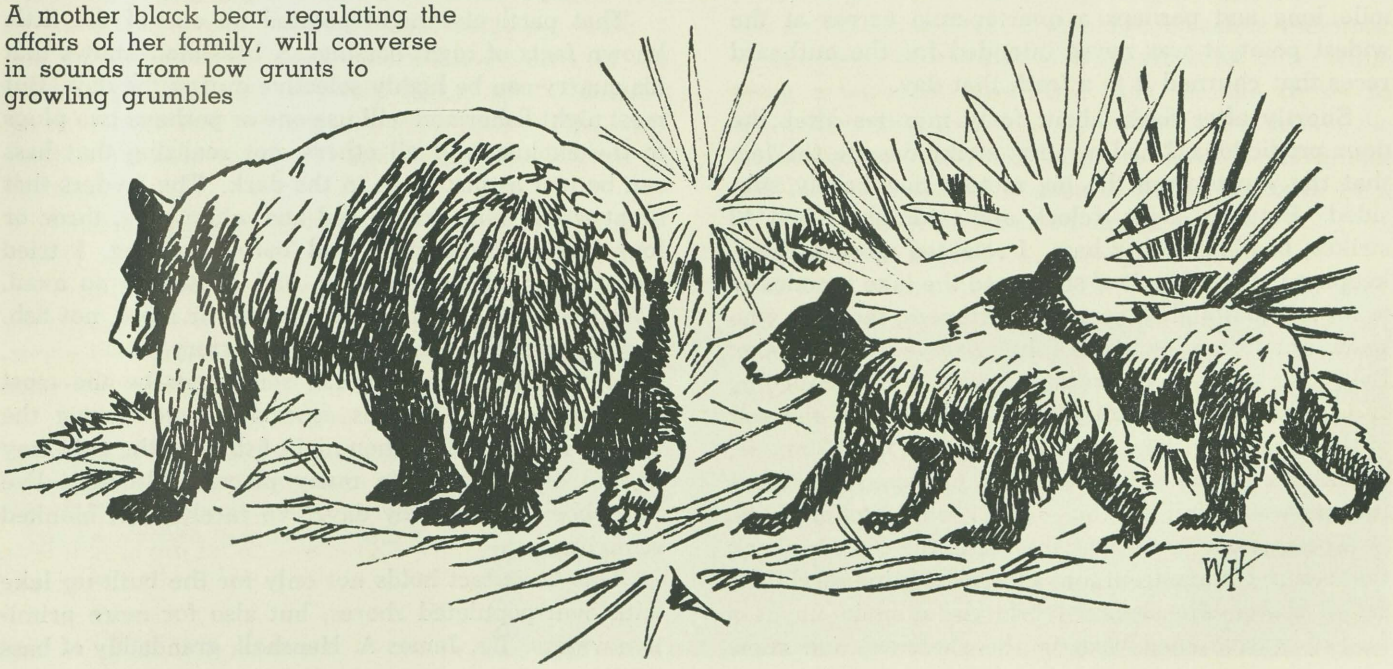
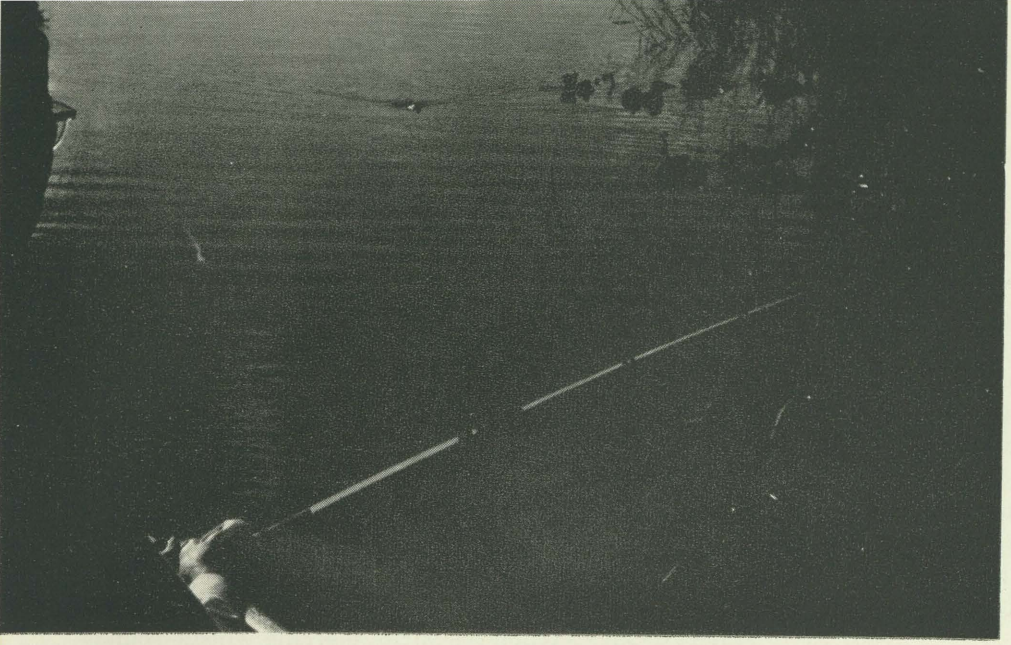
A mother black bear, regulating the affairs of her family, will converse in sounds from low grunts to growling grumbles





On darkest nights, cast close to cover, and make sure the retrieve is slow.

I'll do my bass fishing under the moon and stars, — on a quiet lake

Hoot-Owl Bass

By GEORGE HEINZMAN

CASTING MY UNDERWATER plug to the edge of the lily pads, I let it sink before retrieving. The man standing on the dock, just beyond, chuckled.

"You won't catch bass here, buddy," he said. "Live bait's the only way, and even then they're scarce. And you take today — well, those speedboats have ruined the lake for the next week."

I had heard that story before. It was perhaps thirty minutes before dark and I was merely marking time. The speedboats, that the Fourth of July afternoon, had practically shredded the small lake. A mile long and perhaps a quarter-mile across at the widest point, it was never intended for the outboard races that churned it to a froth that day.

Shortly after dark, about forty minutes after the dour predictions, I had my first strike despite the fact that the waves from the big motors had barely subsided. Between eight o'clock and midnight I had 42 strikes, boating twenty bass. I released most of them, keeping the legal limit of six. I had the lake practically to myself that night. Even the oldtimers, the ones who knew about hoot-owl bass fishing, stayed off the lake. Everyone knew bass wouldn't hit after that churning and with a big fireworks display going on at one end of the lake. Everyone but the bass, that is. Of course, I wanted a fox-hole every time one of those burned-out rockets would fall nearby — but I was catching bass.

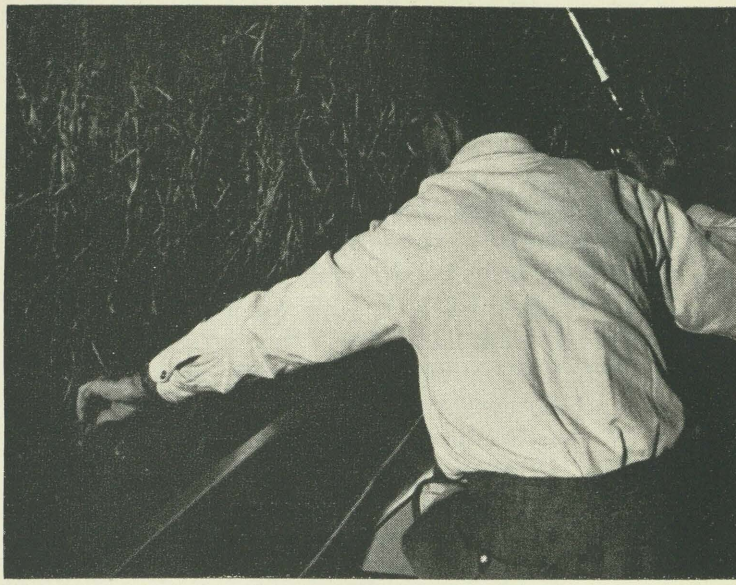
The last one to hit was the prize, the old mossback that sent me home from that good fishing in search of a set of scales. He slammed into the plug in about a foot of water, away back in the shallows, and came smashing and flailing across the surface straight toward the boat in his wild dash for deep water. Once out there, he tail-whipped the water a couple of times, interspersed with some deep bull-like rushes for freedom, then came to the net thoroughly whipped. The plug fell from his mouth as I lifted him over the side, a neat 5¼ pounds of hoot-owl bass.

That particular night pointed up one of the little known facts of night-bassing. A bass-man knows that his quarry can be highly selective during the day. But most night fishermen will use one or perhaps two plugs to the exclusion of all others, not realizing that bass can be just as fastidious in the dark. The feeders that night would take only a red and white plug, three or four inches underwater and barely moving. I tried many other plugs, retrieves, and depths to no avail. Topwater was a bust. Sink it a foot or more, not fish. Any color but red and white, same story.

Hoot-owl bass fishing can sometimes be the most profitable of all. This is especially true during the hot summer months, when night fishing is the only way to fool old linesides in many places. Although I've often been skunked by day, I've rarely been blanked at night.

This basic fact holds not only for the built-up lake with over-populated shores, but also for more primitive waters. Dr. James A. Henshall, grandaddy of bass

When your plug 'hangs up' — row in quietly so as not to disturb the fish. Resume your fishing several feet on down the shoreline.



angling, wrote that predacious fish feed mostly at night. If true in Henshall's day, when virtually all lakes were primitive, it certainly holds today. Bass are predatory night feeders by nature. And on lakes where cottages line the shores, lakes supposedly "fished out" and over-boated, bass that are normally wary and boat-shy lose much of their caution at night.

The average fishing vacation will be spent at such a lake during the hottest summer months when fish are lethargic under the sun, lying in the deepest holes. At these times, when your usual day fishing is unproductive, try night bassing. They just aren't hitting, you are told — but perhaps they are doing *all* their feeding at night.

I experimented with that theory for two weeks one summer, fishing by day and night. It was a grueling grind, but taught me a lesson. I caught only two small bass by day during the whole trial period, but brought in good fish every night.

Night fishing calls for skill and exact methods, as you're fishing under a handicap. You must know your outfit, and be able to cast accurately and judge distance by feel. Otherwise you will be rowing in constantly to untangle a lure hung in the brush, or else not casting in close enough. This judging by feel can come only with experience. If you have already learned accuracy, you are well along the road, because subconsciously much of that accuracy is attained by feel. A few nights of fishing should complete the job.

So using an outfit with which you're familiar is more important than using a particular rig. Plug casting, flies, or spinning can all be effective at night. My personal preference is with a light plugging outfit. I can attain better accuracy with it, and find that the bigger night-feeding bass prefer bigger lures. I always use a leader, and seem to get more strikes that way. Apparently bass can see a line at night as well as in the day.

A variety of lures is needed. Two or three topwater plugs are a must, while floaters that run a few inches deep are sometimes best. Pork strip lures are essential. While a spoon and strip will work, I prefer a lure with a revolving spinner on the head. Bass usually hit this job solidly and are well hooked. I believe that much of their night hunting is done by vibration, and they strike savagely at the vibration set up by the revolving spinner.

A topwater must be worked extremely slow. Even with the puddling swimmers, I use a twitch and rest method. One killing retrieve with these is to twitch it along slowly for two or three feet, hesitate, then wobble it another foot or so and rest. Try to give it an injured action instead of a steady plop-plop-plop. I have one small puddler that sinks an inch or so below the surface at rest. The slightest twitch brings it to the surface. A slightly harder tug will raise it in the air for a couple of inches. But be on guard when you try this! That fat bug trying to leave the water will bring a smashing strike if an old mossback is watching.

It's essential to be on hair-trigger at all times while using a topwater lure. You can't see the strike, so must depend on sound alone. Wait until you feel the strike and your bass will be gone. While some strikes will be unmistakable smashes, often it will only be a

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Fast outboards had churned the small lake to a froth that afternoon. Shortly after dark, I had my first strike despite the fact that waves from the big boats had barely subsided.

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slight splash or a low sucking pop. The small bass will splash at the lure, but when it goes down with that sucking noise, it's usually an old grandaddy. When I first started night fishing, I thought those sucking noises were bream popping at the plug — until I hung one of those "bream" and found myself tied fast to four pounds of largemouth.

Color? Many anglers prefer black at night, but I've had as good luck with other colors. Perhaps black will hook more strikes, giving a better outline against the night sky. That is, for topwater. Underwater, bass are almost as selective at night as by day.

A slow retrieve will usually work best, but if they're feeding fast, you'll cover more water with a fast retrieve and thus draw more hits. Unless it's like that Fourth of July night when they ate up a slow retrieve but ignored a fast one! If strikes are scattered, as they usually are, slow down your fishing accordingly. If there seems to be no bass at all in the lake, work slower than ever. In likely spots, try two or three casts. In all cases, experiment until you find what they want.

You must know your lake, not only the surface shoreline, but the underwater bars, drop-offs, and weedbeds. Learn your lake by day, for to night-fish a strange lake is literally shooting in the dark. Many of the hot-spots by day will pay off at night, while others will be fishless. Again, you'll find bass at night in almost unbelievable places.

On one small lake, bright lights at the public beach allow bathing until midnight. Two floodlights then remain on until daylight. About two o'clock one morning, I was rowing past the sandy beach to get to the next stretch of fishable shoreline when I heard the unmistakable slash of a bass creasing the surface, chasing minnows far up in the shallows. Letting the boat drift, I cast to the shoreline and started retrieving. The lure had barely traveled five feet before the strike came. I caught three bass in four casts under those bright lights, then it was all over.

Curious, I returned the next night after the bathers had left. This time I drifted into the beach area with a bright flashlight. I counted twelve bass before the boat spooked them! After that, through July and August, the beach was good for strikes almost every night. After Labor Day the beach closed — and with the lights, went the bass. Apparently minnows and insects were drawn by the lights, and the bass followed their natural food. By day, the clear sandy beach was covered with people, and a bass couldn't be found anywhere near.

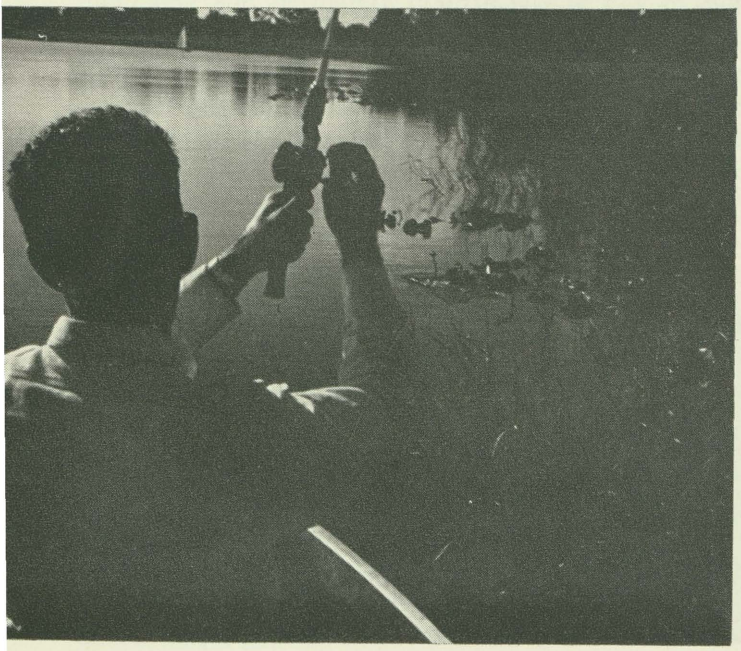
You'll find less wind at night, with many perfectly calm periods. This allows you to work slower, but calls for extreme caution. The angler who stalks his bass, whether by day or night, almost always gets more. This way, your retrieve can be good right up to the boat. I've had smashing strikes on topwaters at boatside, and one dark night a bass followed a deep running lure into the air as I lifted it clear. He missed, and showered me with water as he fell back.

Being quiet, you can stay in closer, using shorter more accurate casts. A dark shoreline is hard to judge at best, and the closer you can stay the better. I usually angle short casts ahead and in. This keeps the lure out ahead of the boat where fish haven't been disturbed, keeps it in bass water during most of the retrieve, and allows me to see the shoreline more clearly.

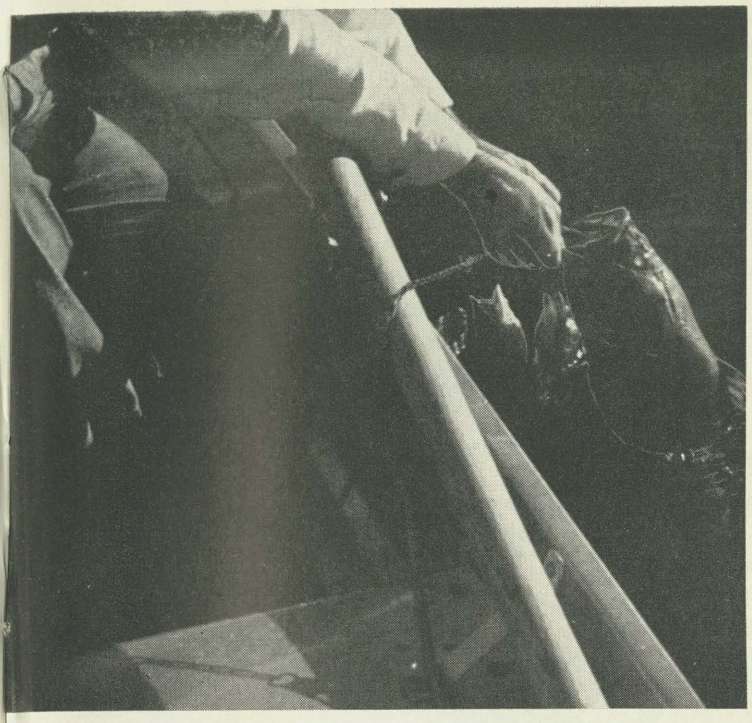
When you overcast and hang up—and you will—row in quietly. Then start fishing a few feet down the shoreline when you begin again. Use your flashlight with discretion. It not only disturbs the fish, but ruins your night sight for several minutes. I rarely use a light unless the lure is tangled hoplessly in the brush, or snagged deep in a landed fish.

Night bass average bigger. The real lunkers feed then, at times losing all caution. This holds true on any lake, so if you're after big ones go out at night. Even when there's no feeding at all, you still might hit the occasional loner, the old mossback who has moved into the shallows for a feast after several days of lying in some deep hole. That's one of the biggest thrills of night fishing, the fact that the next cast might be the one that brings a lunker, even though there have been no strikes for hours.

Sometimes these old roughnecks feed loudly. You



A bass often turns toward the boat and throws the lure before you can set the hook. Others will be lost when they turn into the cover. This one swirled around the lily pads, and went free.



The last mossback to hit was large enough to send me home in search for a set of scales. I had a nice string of hoot-owl bass, — caught in midsummer.

can hear them smashing around on the surface, and move in quietly on them. Under a bright moon you might see him slashing across the surface. One moved in on my plug with his back out of water, and slammed into the lure just as I struck. The plug bounced high in the air and fell back with a loud splash. I let it lie. He came in again, this time from the side. Again over anxious, I struck too soon at sight of him. That's a big thrill, even when you miss the strike.

Bass have certain feeding sites, and these must be located. If you catch one, identify the spot and return later. Remember the location and try it night after night while looking for others. If you miss a strike, rest him while fishing elsewhere, then return and try him again. These spots hold up year after year.

I had twenty such night-feeding stations located on a certain small lake. After being away for five years, I had an opportunity to fish that lake again one night. I hit only the old reliable spots. When I came in to the dock at daylight with a limit catch, including a four-pounder, two men were just renting a boat from the camp operator. They stared in disbelief.

The owner shook his head. "I haven't seen a string like that in years," he said slowly.

The bass had been there all along, and there were still plenty left in the lake. I know, because they were hitting short that night, and I missed many strikes. But the hoot-owl fishermen had either left or were keeping wisely quiet.

When you're on one of those proven feeding stations, don't give up with one cast. Sometimes repeated casts will stir one up. Vary your retrieve. I usually try a slow twitching one, then a fast splashy retrieve, followed by another, agonizingly slow. If that doesn't raise a hit, I usually move on.

I've never been able to pin down the effects of weather, wind, moon and other such factors. Never try to second-guess the weather; just try the fish. Many bass-men say a bright moon is bad. I've had as many strikes on moonlight nights as on dark ones. However, under a bright moon, bass often strike short on topwater, and many strikes are missed. Perhaps this is because they can see the lure better and just lip it. On dark nights, not seeing as well, the strike is more solid to insure getting their prey.

On such nights, when they're hitting short, going underwater will often bring solid strikes.

There is one way in which I've found the moon definitely affects bass. If they've been feeding, they stop when the moon rises. Conversely, if things are quiet, the moon often brings strikes. The moon setting usually has the same effect. With a change of light, you can almost always count on a change in the fishing, for better or worse as the case may be.

You'll find nights when a heavy overcast hides even the stars. The shoreline is almost impossible to make out. Now it is best to keep in close with short casts. Along lily pads or other surface cover, I often move in right next to them and cast straight ahead. There are advantages and disadvantages to this parallel casting. Reflection on the water allows you to make out the cover line and control your cast. Your plug is close in to bass cover during the entire retrieve. But I lose many fish this way. Often, when they hit, they come straight toward the boat on the surface and throw the plug before I can set the hook. Also, some heavy fish will be lost if they turn into the pads after hitting. You have no way of stopping them, even with a heavy line. I use this method only on the darkest nights when it's impossible to see otherwise. Even then, it is usually best to keep out just a little and use a weedless lure unless they absolutely refuse to touch anything but a topwater.

Several years ago, quite by accident, I learned a method of night fishing that I've never heard owl-hooters so much as mention. Harry and I were moving slowly along, casting to the weedy shallows with spinner-pork strip combinations. We had gone strikeless and were waiting for the moon to go below the horizon, hoping for a change. Suddenly I realized that just ahead of the boat was a deep weedbed, about eighteen feet down, that had produced some nice large-mouths by daylight. Idly, knowing it was useless, I cast and let the lure sink until line stopped running out. Reeling in slack until I felt resistance from the heavy weeds, I started dragging the lure slowly through the underwater cover. Suddenly the resistance was gone and I knew the lure, coming free, had darted to a

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clear spot surrounded by the growth. A couple of feet and it stopped dead again with the feel of a heavy weed. There was no jerk, but deepwater bass often stop a plug that way. Automatically I struck, and was fast to three pounds of fighting largemouth.

"Where did he hit?" Harry asked in a low voice as he netted the fish.

"Straight ahead of the boat," I replied, pointing. "Cast out there and bring it back real slow."

Harry cast and started a slow retrieve immediately. I cast when his lure was almost back to the boat, and let it sink. It hit the open space again, and—wham!

I picked up four matched three-pounders on five casts while Harry fumed, all from that four or five foot open spot in the weeds eighteen feet down. I almost lost Harry as a fishing buddy when I told him *later* that I was letting the lure sink to the bottom before retrieving. Almost but not quite—only because when we went out the next night and Harry got some using the same method.

Many times since then, when the bass aren't in the shallows, I've found them deep. Sometimes only eight feet down, sometimes twenty.

We often read of deep fishing by day, but rarely do you hear of it at night. Try it next time you don't find them in the shallows. Use a weedless lure at first to save your blood pressure. But if that doesn't work, try others. One night a wide-swinging plug with four gangs of tiny hooks was the only thing the bass would touch, and it had to be right down on those deep weeds. Those flying hooks snagged more weeds than bass, and I had to use a plug-saver often to break it free—but about every fifth cast that *didn't* snag weeds brought up a bass.

Remember that bass are predators, and the natural hunting time for predators is the hours of darkness. Bass are on the prowl then, including the wise old boys that lived to a ripe age. Get out under the moon and stars on a quiet lake—and happy hunting! ●

DO ANIMALS TALK

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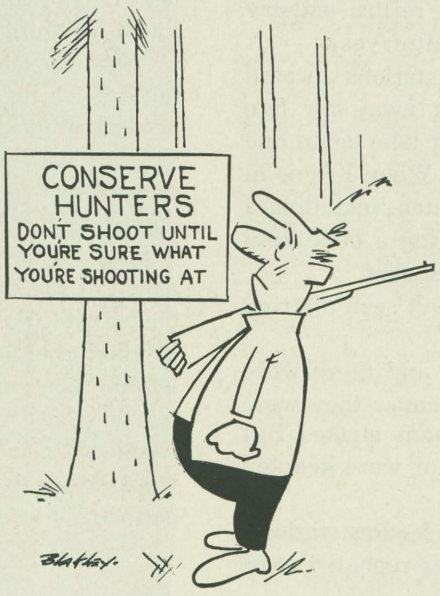
Some animals accomplish amazing feats with their voices. Some use them to tell lies to defend themselves. The pika is an accomplished ventriloquist. The more noise one makes the harder it may be to find it. It's sound may appear to come from a distant rock, when the animal is close at hand, or the voice may seem near when actually it is at a considerable distance. As a youngster I seldom could locate doves. Their soft, lonely voices always seemed in the distance.

Antelopes have signal corps. They carry their signal flags on their rumps—white patches of hair which are a combination of hairs shorter in the centers and larger as they radiate outward. When trouble is sighted the animal flares its rump patches so that they look like great, white rosettes. The flared patches reflect so much light another animal two miles away can see it, and in turn flash the code to others.

Beavers are among the most expressive of animals. The babies have a wide range of expression from low whimpering to a wail like a human infant. Adult beavers mumble and grumble like old men. And when hurt or frightened they will yell and cry like a hurt child. Alarm signal among beavers is a resounding crash of the powerful, flat tail on the surface of the water. Nothing could say "DIVE" more plainly or quickly.

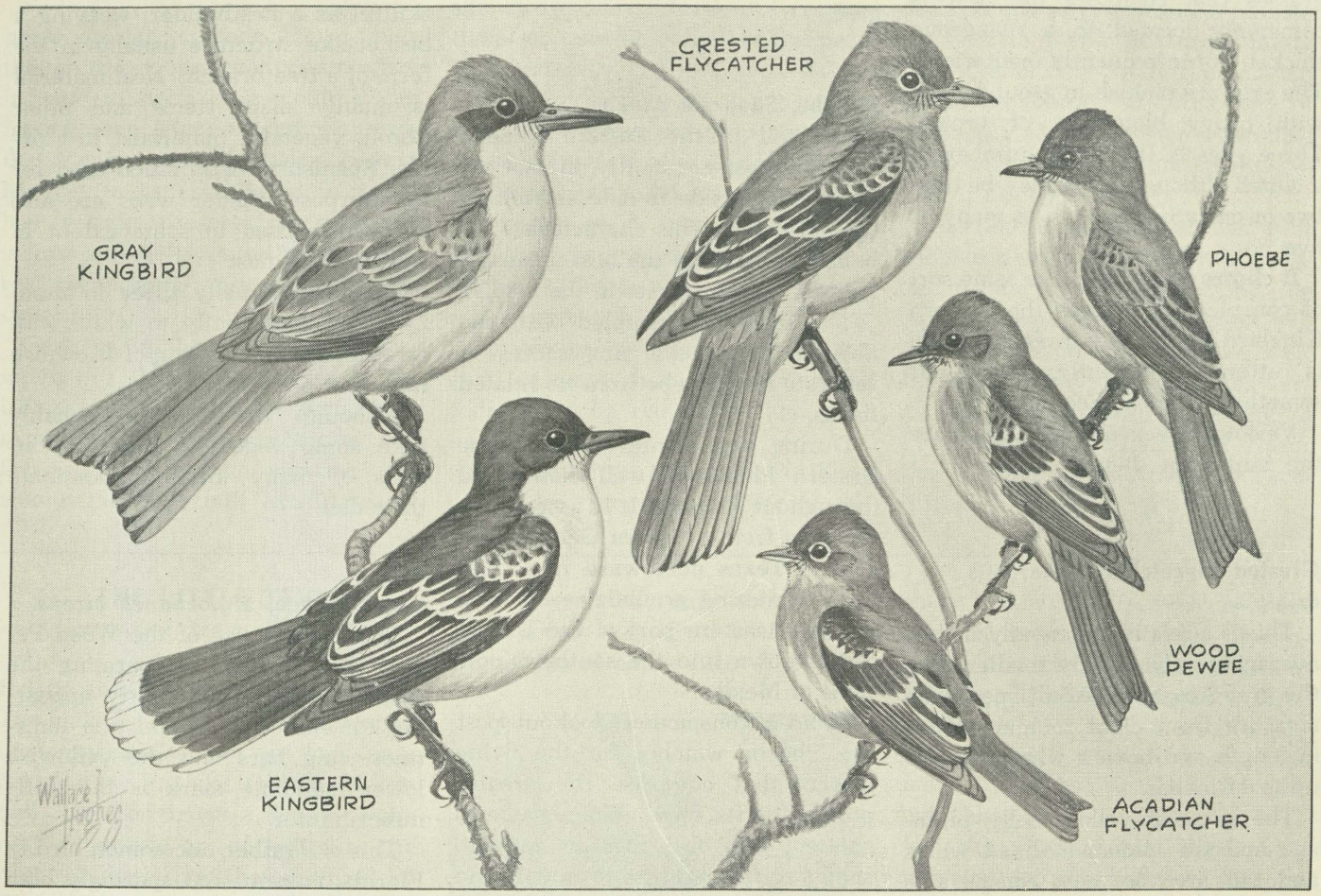
Though ordinarily considered one of the quietest of animals, rabbits possess a rather large, expressive vocabulary. Infants sometimes call for food by uttering faint squeaks. Rabbits broadcast danger by thumping on the ground with their hind feet. Usually the animals are quiet when caught or injured. But I have heard them let out heart-rending, pitiful screams. Jack rabbits are grunt and groan artists in combat. They rear up on their hind feet and box with their fore paws; then they may wheel and kick at each other with their hind feet — all to sound accompaniments suggestive of some human wrestling matches.



The urge to communicate may be as strong in animals as in human beings. One way or another, even under the severest apparent handicaps they strive to make themselves heard. Even without any vocal equipment the lowly cricket became a professional "singer." In times past, in many parts of the world, especially in China and Japan, crickets were caged and domesticated for their musicianship. They were bred, raised and cared for with the considerate attention now given to the best race horses. Many favorites literally dwelt in ivory towers, and ate the best of foods.

And, of course, one of the most delightful features of animal talk — they talk to people. I once lived with a charming cocker spaniel. We were never lonely together. I do not believe that either of us ever kept a secret from the other — though I never understood how he comprehended my thoughts. Even his limitations endeared him to me. He was not equipped to talk politics, or gossip. ●

FLORIDA BIRDLIFE



Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus*

The Bee Bird or Bee Martin, local names by which the Eastern Kingbird is widely known, is a conspicuous summer bird throughout most of the state. Its outstanding characteristic of plumage is the black tail with white terminal band.

The nesting range is a wide one, extending from the southern portion of British Columbia eastward into Quebec and Newfoundland and southward into Florida, the Gulf area, and the northern portions of New Mexico, northern Utah, and western Oregon.

From southern Mexico down into the northern reaches of South America is the wintering ground of this Kingbird.

Bushes or trees on lake and stream shores are one of the favored places for locating the nest. Quite frequently the nest is built in a bush actually overhanging the water. Pine trees, especially longleaf, are also much used for the purpose, especially in the Panhandle section.

The nest structure itself consists usually of a rather loose mass of twigs, dried grass and other plant material. There is an inner cup of finer vegetable material. Three or four eggs comprise the average clutch. They are cream or white in color with irregular spotting and blotchings of brown and gray.

Flying insects of various kinds comprise the entire diet of the species. The birds select the most conspicuous of perches, tree tops, bare branches of trees, telephone poles and wires, and the like. From this observation post, the bird watches for insects, many of which are captured on the wing. Feathered intruders, whether hawk, crow, jay or smaller members of the local bird community are set upon to the accompaniment of much shrill chattering whenever they chance to tresspass on the kingbird's chosen domain.

Gray Kingbird, *Tyrannus dominicensis.*

Pale gray of plumage, with a square tail, very large bill, and dark head markings is the Gray Kingbird. It is a species of the coastal areas, seldom if ever seen far inland in Florida. During the summer months it is quite common in the Keys. It also occurs in some numbers on the Atlantic side of the Peninsula at least to St. Johns County and on the Gulf side into Wakulla County.

The nesting range reaches from the southern coast of North Carolina southward through the West Indies into the northern areas of South America. The main wintering grounds are in northern South America.

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The flimsy structure of twigs and grasses that composes the nest is commonly located in a mangrove thicket, not infrequently over water. The eggs are pinkish in ground color with heavy blotchings of brown. Three eggs is the usual number in a clutch although there may be only two or on rare occasions, as many as five.

It choses to perch in the same sort of conspicuous sites as the Eastern Kingbird. The loud three note call is uttered frequently. It sounds something like *pe-cheer' y.*

Various insects and wild fruits are the important dietary items.

Crested Flycatcher. *Myiarchus crinitus.*

This is a relatively large flycatcher averaging only slightly smaller than the gray kingbird. Adult specimens measure from eight to nine inches in length and have a wingspread of up to 14 inches.

The greenish-yellow belly plumage and the cinnamon hued wings and tail are the most conspicuous field identification marks.

Open woodlands seem to be the choice of habitat of this species although the birds are frequently seen about the edges of openings in brushy second growth forest as well.

Nests are rather commonly located in tree hollows at varying heights above the ground. They will also readily make use of conveniently located bird boxes. Now and again deserted buildings will provide acceptable nesting locations. Four to six brown spotted whittish eggs make up the average clutch.

In Florida the Crested Flycatcher is quite common during the summer months throughout the Peninsula. During the winter it is present mainly in the more southerly portions of the state and southward at least as far as Colombia.

Not as aggressive in nature as the Kingbirds, it apparently does not harry crows, jays and other "intruders" on its hunting grounds. Insects of various kinds make up more than 90 per cent of the diet. Fruits and berries are also eaten to some degree.

Phoebe, *Sayornis phoebe.*

The tail of the Eastern Phoebe seems almost constantly in motion, waving from side to side as well as up and down. This characteristic of behavior is one of the best means of identifying the species in the field.

The black bill coupled with the absence of an eye ring serves to separate the Phoebe from its related forms.

During the winter months the Eastern Phoebe is well distributed throughout Florida. It is a nester in the area from northern Georgia and central Texas northward into Canada. Wintering grounds reach from the southeastern part of the United States down into the southern portions of Mexico.

From a conspicuous lookout post the Phoebe watches for the flying insects that comprise the greater portion of its food. When game is spotted, the bird fiies in pursuit, snapping the creature in midair and returning to its sentinel post to await another opportunity.

One of the common calls of the species is two syllabled and sounds very much like *phe-bee',* from which, obviously enough is derived the common name.

Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax vierscens.*

Averaging only about 5¾ inches in length, its small size is a good clue to field identification of the Acadian Flycatcher. Other characteristics to look for include the double wing bars and the rather conspicuous eye ring.

Northern and Central Florida is the summer range of the species in the state. They are not infrequently sighted elsewhere in Florida during the spring and fall migrations.

The nesting range extends from central Florida northward into southern Ontario and westward to Nebraska. The main wintering grounds lie in South America.

The Acadian Flycatcher is quite skillful as a nestbuilder, weaving a basket-like structure usually in the form of a tree branch. Nest material is mainly plant stems and other fibrous vegetable materials. In Florida, Spanish moss is much used for the purpose. Spider webs are also apparently used to some extent in weaving the nest.

The eggs, usually three in number, vary from buffy to white with a rather sparse spotting of brownish hue.

Although these birds probably take some vegetable material, insects of many kinds predominate their diet.

Wood Pewee, *Myiochanes virens.*

The smaller size of the Wood Pewee is of value in separating the species from the similiarly appearing Phoebe. In addition, the indistinct wing bars and the yellowish lower mandible mark is this little insect hunter.

This is a rather uncommon bird in Florida, encountered sparingly both during its seasonal migrations and during the summer when it is a resident in the northern and central parts of the state.

The nest of the wood pewee is distinctive, being shaped like a shallow cup thick-walled and usually saddled on a horizontal limb well above the ground. Various plant materials are utilized in the construction. The outside surfaces are generally well plastered with lichens, making such an effective camouflage that it is difficult to spot the nest from almost any angle.

The average of three creamy-white eggs are blotched and spotted, usually at the larger end, with brown. The nesting range covers a goodly portion of the eastern United States and Canada. Wintering grounds are mainly from southern Central America (Costa Rica) into Peru.

Insects of various kinds make up most of the Peewee's food. ●

WATER REVISION LAW

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boats do not corrode away, even though the stream produced no fishing and to swim in it would invite fatal illness. The concept of the esthetic enjoyment of natural beauty has yet to be established in water law, yet the preservation of scenic values may be essential to the highest recreational use of a given stream.

Sections in the "model act" providing for the "preservation of existing uses" should be revised to make it clear that recreation and fish and wildlife production are among the important existing uses, and to provide unmistakably for the intervention by the game and fish department, parks department or other agency for the protection of recreational and scenic values in the public interest.

A group of hunters or fishermen, who could prove no property right nor demonstrate a financial gain or loss in the proposed manipulation of a stream which they use, would have no recourse, no way to seek or secure a water-use permit themselves under the "model act." Yet such groups of citizens have right and interests that, by any moral code, must be recognized and protected.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has proposed a different approach to state water law revision. It and State Farm Bureaus are recommending a bill making some basic declarations of policy and establishing a State Water Resources Study Commission. The Study Commission would be charged with the duty of drafting a comprehensive water law to be acted on by a subsequent session of the legislature.

The Louisiana legislature last year adopted a study commission bill similar to the one advocated by the Farm Bureau. Such legislation will be introduced in West Virginia, New Jersey and several other states during the coming year, according to Charles C. Butler, Land and Water Use Director of the American Farm Bureau Federation. ●

THE LITTLE TRIO

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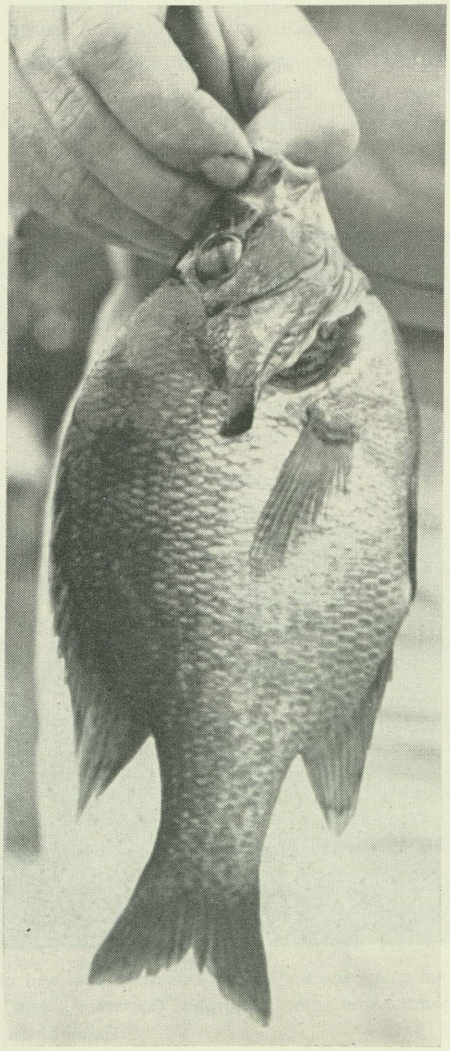
Briefly this is the pattern followed. The male fish locates a suitable spot, then proceeds to root out and fan a nest hollow on lake or stream bottom. He then drives a female to the nest. The eggs are deposited in the nest, fertilized, and then guarded by the male against the multitude of small fishes of various species that eat the eggs when the opportunity presents itself. The female is driven away from the nest after her egg laying duties have been completed. For a short time after the young emerge from the eggs, they are guarded and herded about by the protective male. Within a relatively short time the youngsters are on their own.

With the exception of the redbreast little specific effort is directed at catching the "lesser" sunfishes. Fliers and long-ears that are taken are almost always caught while fishing for more favored species. As with the related forms there is no great secret connected with taking any of these three fish. They are ready and willing feeders on a variety of animal materials. Earthworms and red wigglers presented on a small hook, a number 8 or smaller, is the usual medicine that does the trick. Bonnet worms also make a good choice when they are available.



Members of The Little Trio are ready and willing feeders. In addition to natural baits such as earthworms, red wigglers and bonnet worms, they will strike at both wet and dry fly patterns in the artificial lure department.

In the artificial lure department both wet and dry patterns are productive with the sinkers possibly turning the trick more often than top floaters. The sponge bodied rubber legged "spiders" also seem highly acceptable. An artificial grasshopper tied on a small hook makes an effective offering at times and is a personal favorite, especially for red-breasts. Although they will not infrequently strike a high floating lure, lack of action will sometimes be remedied by adding a single piece of split shot to the "bug" to take it down deep. Small spinner and fly combinations are also a good bet. Fly rod poppers are sometimes effective but they are not usually as productive on this trio as they are on bluegills. There are exceptions, of course.

In the overall Florida fresh water fishing picture perhaps these three fishes are not especially important. At any rate, the little trio is part and parcel of the Sunshine State's "brim" catch. ●

The Wildlife BALANCE WHEEL

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

IT'S MAY AGAIN and with it the promise of many good things to come. May, in my calendar, always has been a month of exceptional beauty. Nature is fully awakened and everything seems to stir restlessly for the exciting adventures ahead. It is almost as if the month was created to prepare for the coming summer.

May beckons to all of us and if we have missed the beauties of nature, now is the time to discover the unusual blueness of the sky with powder-puff clouds floating easily through space, Or take time to observe the graceful soaring of a bird in flight. And our ears can be tuned, too, for the song of a meadow lark, the call of the bobwhite, or the delightful cooing of a mourning dove. Nature is majestic and holds a court of brilliant design. May quickens man's pulse and challenges his imagination. Books on travel are read; travel folders find their way into the mailman's bag.

Mom and Dad and the youthful members of the family begin to lay their summer vacation plans. May is a month of invitation and excitement. May brings forth its array of colorful flowers. Grass seems greener and the trees taller. Dad's fishing tackle is inventoried and cleaned. May and the coming summer months promise more and better fishing. Junior and sister can plan their camping trips. Mom's new plants are all she expected and her flower garden looks more beautiful than ever.

Yes, May is a month of prophesy. Let's take advantage and enjoy all of her beauties. Let's prepare for the coming of summer.

1959 Summer Camp

Applications are now being accepted for the 1959 summer encampment. Applications may be requested from any of our regional offices by writing to the Education Officer. The regional offices are listed on page 3, Or you may write to:

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission
Information and Education Division
648 West Tennessee
Tallahassee, Florida

Nature—Something new has been added this year, "Nature Acre." Here our campers will inventory wilderness and wildlife — a special study in observation and development.

Camping — Camping away from camp will be another new experience for our campers. For the experienced campers, camp-outs will be introduced during each week.

Cook-outs will be included in the activities.

Canoes—We have two beautiful 17-foot Grumman aluminum canoes for our canoeing program and hope to order two more before too long. The canoes were purchased by the League.

Rifle Range—Our rifle range has been completely rebuilt. Our earth backstop has been elevated another five feet and now measures approximately 15 feet. New target sections have been installed. Target area has been increased from five to ten. In other words, ten young riflemen can shoot simultaneously.

Protective rail fencing has been installed on the north side of the range for safety.

A gun rack has been built to hold our new .22 calibre rifles. These guns were purchased last summer by the League.

League — League's interest in Camp — the two canoes we mentioned in the above paragraph were

Just a few more weeks to camping time, and plenty of outdoor activities. In addition to general boating and safety programs, the canoe "fleet" is expected to be increased to four by the time Lake Eaton Camp opens.

purchased by the League with monies collected from Tag Day sales. That is why it is so important that proper preparation be made each year for Tag Day tagging. The clubs can always use the money for their specific projects, and of course, the League will always need money to maintain and operate its camps.

Top Ten Clubs for 1958

1st Stuart Junior Conservation Club 31,090 points

2nd Hialeah Everglades Junior Conservation Squadron 19,380 points

3rd Allapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club 17,625 points

4th Dean Mather Junior Wildlife Club 16,290 points

5th St. John's Junior Conservation Club 12,090 points

6th Shady Grove Junior Conservation Club

7th Palatka Junior Wildlife Club

8th Pahokee Junior Wildlife Club

9th Pasco Trail Blazers

10th Bay County All-Girls Club

Top Club of the Year

Stuart Junior Conservation Club, sponsored by the Stuart Junior Chamber of Commerce, won this title. The Stuart Club finished second last year (1957) and third in 1956.

Stuart also topped all clubs last year in Tag Day sales.

The League and Game Commission extend their very best wishes for continued progress and congratulations for a job well done.

Top Leader 1958

Outstanding Adult Leader for the youth program in 1958, Bob Gottron. He is chairman of the Youth Conservation Committee of the local Junior Chamber of Commerce, Stuart, Florida. Congratulations Mr. Robert Gottron. (Note: Mr. Gottron was also recipient of the State Governor's Award, in February, for Adult Guidance for Youth Work in Conservation. The award was made possible by the Florida Wildlife Federation and the Sears Foundation Award Program.

Balloting for the top Junior Conservationist of the State in the Junior Conservation Program is being made by the State Adult Advisory Council of the League.

Those nominated for this top position are: Betty Sue Johnson, Bay County All-Girls Junior Conservation; Paul Carter, Allapattah Optimist Junior Conservation Club; Ronnie Stokes, Allapattah Optimists Junior Conservation Club; Charles Zimmerle, St. Johns Junior Conservation Club; Cindy Hubbard, St. Johns Junior Conservation Club; Marilyn Smith, Bay County All-Girls Junior Conservation Club; Janet Stuart, Bay County All-Girls Junior Conservation Club; Tommy Christopher, Stuart Junior Conservation Club; Tom Mawhinney, Everglades Junior Conservation Squadron; Earl DeBary, Deane Mather Junior Conservation Club.

Just as soon as the balloting is completed, results will be announced in this column.

Weekly Schedule for Summer Encampment

June 28—July 11
Girls (Two weeks) 9-16
July 12—July 18
Boys 8-12
July 19—July 25
Boys 8-12
July 26—August 8
Boys (Two weeks) 8-12
August 9—August 15
Boys 13-16
August 16—August 22
Boys 8-12

Training workshop for staff will be held June 21-27 at camp. The staff will, in addition to their regular training, receive an instructors course as created by the American Camping Association.

Activities for the camp include: Day hikes or trips, overnight trips, extended trips, outdoor cooking, fire building, compass, first aid on trips, toolcraft, knotcraft — lashing, pitch and strike tent, nature, conservation, map reading, weather forecasting. ●

INVERNESS DEER

(Continued from Page 25)

legal bucks. A field check following the hunt did not turn up a single illegal kill, though four bucks were found dead, shot with arrows. These presumably died of wounds. A sampling of opinion from the archers revealed that this was generally conceded to be the most successful archery hunt ever held in the state.

Gun Hunt: The gun season opened on November 15, turning out to be a one-day season. Four check stations were operated, while all over entrance gates were chained and locked. Hunters entering and leaving the area were required to check through one of the four stations. All gates were closed at 2 p.m., when it became apparent that the deer harvest limit would be reached and perhaps exceeded, and no hunters were allowed to enter after that time.

A total of 440 legal bucks were checked in that day. The average deer taken weighed only 103 pounds undressed. This can be compared with an average weight of 116 pounds for legal bucks from nearby Ocala. The average buck on the Inverness area weighed the same as the average Ocala yearlings, even though there was an unusually high proportion of adults taken on the Inverness area because of their previous protection. In general body proportions, the Inverness deer ran smaller than Ocala deer, especially in girth — 26 inches compared to 33 inches. This adds up to one thing: stunted growth due to overpopulation.

On the other hand, the average antler spread of the Inverness deer was nearly 15 inches, an exceptionally large figure for Florida deer, reflecting an older population. The majority of the Inverness kill were in fair condition, being neither fat nor markedly poor.

Illegal Kill: Commission personnel recovered five illegal bucks and 21 does during the hunt, or a total

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

of 26 animals. Following the hunt, a crew of 11 men completely examined seven sample sections (a total of 4480 acres) picked at random in a search fo rillegal kills. In all, only one illegal deer was discovered. Since the sample area was one-twenty-fifth of the total Inverness acreage, this gave an estimate of 25 illegal deer left in the woods.

These 25 deer plus the 26 recovered during the hunt make a total of 51 illegally killed animals, or about 10 per cent of the legal deer kill. This figure is extremely low and compares favorably with other hunting areas of the state. Frequently, a 25 to 30 per cent illegal kill can be expected where a buck-only law is in effect.

Since the hunt, the Florida Forest Service has been control-burning in the area. On 3,800 acres burned, the Forest Service has not discovered a single deer carcass that appeared to have been killed during the hunt.

Hunting Pressure: The big surprise of the Inverness hunt was the great number of hunters showing up for opening day — 3,315 of them! It was anticipated that such a number of sportsmen might hunt the area through the 15-day season — but certainly not so many that first day of the season! The greatest number of hunters on the area at one time was 2,674, at 9 a.m. Hunt officials were alarmed about the ripe prospects for accidents as the number of hunters entering the area grew. However, the only report of an accident was that of a boy said to have shot himself in the hand, which remains unauthenticated.

On the basis of this overwhelming response to the Inverness hunt, the Commission will utilize a name-drawing system next season to limit the number of hunters in the woods at any one time. More about this later.

After the Hunt

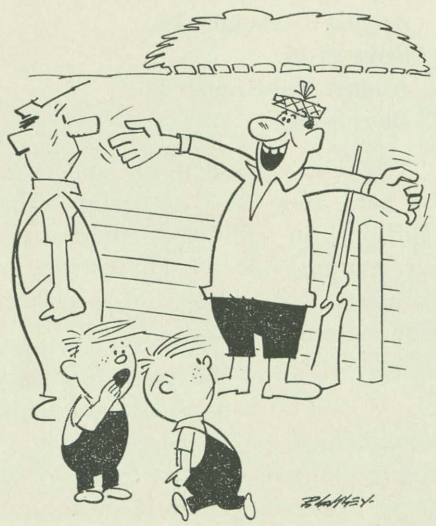
Census: With a deer population of 2,600 prior to the hunt and a total legal and illegal kill of 514 during the season, the post-hunting population was estimated at some 2,085 deer. As a double-check, the Game Management Division carried out a post-hunt census, coming up with a figure of 2,180 deer — remarkably close to the estimate and indicating its validity. The post-hunt herd still showed a concentration of one deer per 19 acres, remaining greater by far than the concentration of any other deer herd in the state.

Post-Hunt Herd Composition: Following the hunt, some 585 bucks and 1,500 does were present in the Inverness area. A fawn crop of 25 per cent of the present herd is expected. By next fall, then, the Inverness herd will consist of the 2,085 deer present at the end of the season, plus this year's fawn crop, less natural mortality. Thus, the Game Management Division experts look for a herd of at least 2,600 for the 1959 season, barring unforeseen calamity. In is very likely that this figure will be closer to 2,800 animals. There will be fewer legal bucks on hand, as is to be expected, and there will be a higher percentage of yearlings — more like the normal ratio of adults to yearlings as found in our long-hunted productive herds.

THE EVERGLADES

D. Dalton

First there were the 'gators,
Then we grew tomaters;
Now they're putting roads across it,
Next will be the homes along it;
And when the water table rises,
The 'gators will again surprise us.



"It's the guy that fished here last summer. Now he's telling about the squirrel that got away."

The 1959 Season

Based on the results of the 1958 hunt, including the forecast of this fall's herd size and composition and the 1958 hunter response to the hunt, no more than 400 gunners a day will be allowed in the Inverness area. A system of name-drawing will be used to determine who will be allowed to hunt. The gun season kill limit will be set later, following a check on the deer population shortly before the season opens. There will probably be three hunts of two days each, tentatively set for December 12 to December 19.

Why the late season? In view of the success of the 1958 archery hunt, a special bow and arrow season will be set up, tentatively lasting from October 31 to December 6. Deer harvest quotas for the archers will be set up following the late census. Such an archery season, followed by the gun season, should result in the maximum number of man-days of utilization of the Inverness area — giving the most sport to the greatest number of people over the full season, consistent with the best maintenance of the herd.

Post Script

One lesson emerges from the unprecedented number of sportsmen who flocked into the Inverness area on opening day, 1958: There are a lot of Floridians who like to hunt! And without the work of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's scientists and management experts, those abundant herds in Inverness, Ocala, Eglin and elsewhere would not be long with us.

The Commission's good conservation practices, based on thorough scientific studies, are making this good hunting possible today for us — and for tomorrow's sportsmen, and their future generations. ●

QUESTION BOX

By CHUCK SCHILLING

Address questions on fishing and boating to Question Box, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Tallahassee, Fla.

Question: I enjoyed your February Fishing column about bird watchers very much. Could you please give me the addresses of the various conservation societies you mentioned.

W. A. Reynolds, Somers, Conn.

Answer: Glad you liked the column. The Izaak Walton League of America is at 1326 Waukegan Road, Glenview, Ill.; the American Nature Association, 1214 16th St., N.W., Washington 6 D. C.; the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y. These organizations are certainly worthwhile to anyone interested in wildlife and the out-of-doors.....

Question: Do you know of any place I can buy plans for a 16-foot air boat?

N. M. Horne, Jacksonville, Fla.

Anwer: Sorry, I don't know of any source for such plans. I think you can probably locate them by writing to Pete McLane, Secretary, Florida Air Boat Association, 2275 N. W. 30th Street, Miami, Fla. This is a fine organization of sportsmen and conservationists, and I'm sure McLane will be able to help you. . .

Question: I noticed a mention in FLORIDA WILDLIFE about a book entitled, "80 Years on Bass." I would like to read this book, but I can't find it at any of the book stores, and the library never heard of it. Can you help?

J. B. Cawley, Jacksonville, Fla.

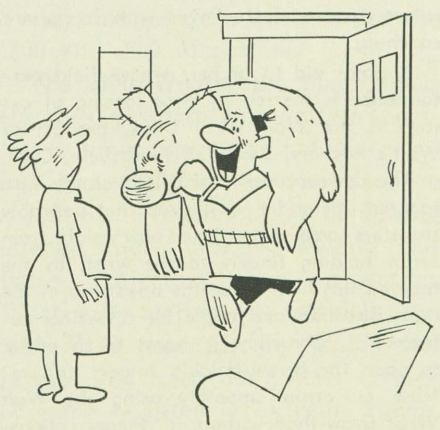
Answer: I too, am unable to find any reference to the book you mention. Perhaps some of our readers can help. Meanwhile, my own favorite book on the subject of bass is by my old friend, Jason Lucas. This one is entitled "Lucas on Bass Fishing," and is published by Dodd Mead & Company, New York. . .

Question: I have read that some people can smell bream beds, and I once fished with a guide on Lake Apopka who sniffed the wind like a beagle hound and, "following his nose," dropped anchor on a fabulous fishing spot. I could smell nothing, and I don't think he could either. I just think he memorized the location of the fish. I think this whole business of smelling fish is just a southern trick to impress us Yankees. How about it?

C. Frachlich, Manchester, Ohio.

Answer: As a rule, we don't have to resort to tricks to impress Yankees. This has been done for us by movies and TV long before they arrive. Take it from me, your Apopka guide could probably smell a bream bed just as easily as you can smell biscuits browning in the oven. I, too, can smell bream bedding, but darned if I can describe the odor.

I have a friend named Tommy Anderson at Eustis, Florida, who has the best "bream nose" I've ever seen. Tommy can smell a big bed of bream all way across a large lake in a stiff breeze. On a quiet day, I've seen him sniff out a bed that held just three nests. Now that's what I call a bream smeller.



"Okay Ef, clean all that STUFF outa the freezer."

Question: I read about tanning hides in FLORIDA WILDLIFE and wonder if you could give me a simple way to mount fish. I'd, also, like to know if you think my 35-horse outboard motor scares the fish when I use it to move my boat along close to the canal bank while fly fishing.

C. R. Massey, Lantana, Fla.

Answer: Morris Shaw is the expert on tanning hides, but I'm pretty sure he'd tell you there is nothing simple about mounting fish, not if you want to stay indoors with them. What I've seen of this business impressed me as being very complicated.

I certainly do think your 35-horse outboard is affecting your fly fishing along the canal banks. You failed to mention if you have caught any fish in this manner, and I would be interested to know if you did. My advice is to shut that motor off and start using oars. See the *Fishing* column in this issue.

Question: A year or so ago, you mentioned an outfit up north that sold supplies to fly tiers and tackle manufacturers. I've lost the magazine and the address. How about telling me again?

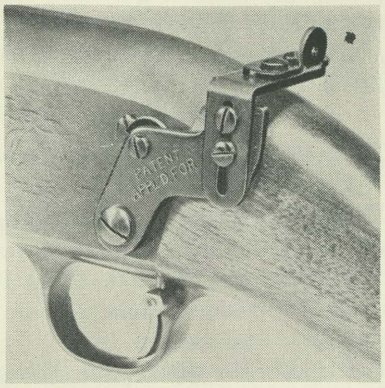
F. E. Thompson, Winter Haven, Fla.

Answer: The supplier you have in mind is Herter's, Inc. Their address is Waseca, Minn. Send 25¢ along with your request for a catalog to cover mailing and handling charges. Herter's is a very complete catalog, and it would be worth the price to me just to read the descriptions that go along with the offerings.

Question: I would like to get into the outdoor writing business. How about sending you some of my writing for your editorial comment? H. Meuse, Birmingham, Ala.

Answer: It's a business? You've picked the wrong guy. I know nothing about editing. In fact, most writers would make terrible editors – probably publish nothing but their own stuff. Best way to get into the writing "business" is to write. Send your stuff to the editors. If they buy it, you are a writer. The WRITER'S DIGEST is a professional writers' magazine, published at 22 E. 12th St., Cincinnati, Ohio. It's a big help to beginner and old pro alike.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS



In some sections of Florida, for reasons of safety, long range rifles are not legal weapons for the taking of deer; only relatively short range shotguns, loaded with buckshot or shotgun slugs, or both, are permitted.

At close range, and right up to 100 yards, the heavy, rifled shotgun slug packs a tremendous wallop. But to be fully effective as game loads, the slugs have to be used in shotguns fitted with some type of adjustable rear sight. Also, in connection with the use of slugs, a higher front sight is required.

There are a number of well-known makes of shotgun receiver sights, but invariably they involve drilling and tapping of shotgun receivers for proper installation. Many shotgunners are reluctant to fit receiver sights their favorite weapons, for this reason—and especially so when the guns owned are in the high priced bracket.

The E-Z On line of shotgun receiver sights, made by the firm of that name, 81 Steel Street, Auburn, New York, and priced at $5.95, solves the problem of drilling and tapping shotgun receivers for needed rear sight installation. . . . The E-Z On receiver type shotgun sights, instead, utilize either existing crossbolt screws and pins or are mounted by inserting a furnished sight bracket between front end of the stock and receiver, where wood joins metal. FWFT&T especially likes those E-Z-On sight models that utilize cross-pin and screw holes already in the gun, as is true in the case of such shotgun models as Ithaca 37, Remington Auto. 48, 11-48, gas operated 58, Remington 870 pump, Browning humpback receiver Auto. and other popular shotguns.

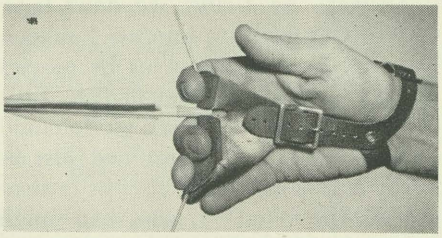
The bracket type, involving removal of the shotgun stock and insertion of a thin, strong steel base bracket between stock and receiver, is required for such models as the Winchester Model 12 and Model 50.

In either case, installation is easy and secure. Adjustments for windage and elevation are likewise easy and positive.

Best results are obtained when the E-Z On receiver sights are matched to front sights of proper height. Otherwise, rifled slugs are apt to hit too high at their most effective ranges, even with the rear sight set as low as possible and still allowing the shooter to see the front sight over the gun's receiver.

For $1.95, the E-Z-On firm will furnish a special high front sight that attaches to the original front sight bead with a small Allen set screw. (Allen wrench furnished with each sight.) One model fits original front sight beads of diameter up to 1/8 of an inch; a second model fits original bead sights that are from 1/8 of an inch to 5/32 of an inch in diameter.

In testing the E-Z-On shotgun sights, numerous five shot groups of rifled slug hits were made at sixty yards that stayed within a four-inch circle. Without a rear peep sight, such shooting would either be impossible or just pure luck.



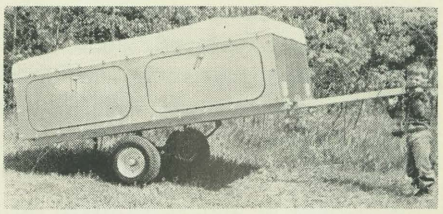
To the target archer and the bowhunter, incorrect release of an arrow from the fingers that hold it in position for loosing at full draw can easily result in a shot that misses the intended mark. In essence, improper release of an arrow has the same bad effect that poor trigger squeeze has on a bullet from a rifle.

Releasing of an arrow should be a smooth, uniform, almost delicate operation. When ready for release of a fully drawn arrow, the truly expert archer opens his hand so that the arrow-holding fingers move quickly and precisely off the nock and bowstring at the same time and without jerk. The technique is not easy to master, even with competent coaching.

A great aid to archers whose field performance is marred by poor loosing of arrows is the Walt Wrist Draw, product of Walt's Archery, Box 303, Northfield, Ohio.

The device consists of a leather tab with tapered tips and a wrist strap that desirably transfers some of the flexed bow weight from arrow holding fingers to the wrist, as the tapered tips help guide the bowstring in the right direction and angle for a perfect release . . . Somehow it seems to be easier to open the arrow-holding fingers and release an arrow smoothly using the Walt Wrist Draw than without it. Finger callouses and blisters likewise cease to be a problem.

Advertised in TAM, ARCHERY MAGAINE, EASTERN BOWHUNTER and other leading archery publications, the Walt Wrist Draw retails for $2.50, is available in both right and left hand models.



If you see a side-paneled, aluminum trailer — like the one illustrated — being towed on a Florida highway, wave the lucky owner to a stop and ask him if it is an Apache trailer. If he says "Yes," then ask if he will take time to show and explain its many features. Chances are good that prideful ownership will influence his assent to your request. For you, the demonstration will be a revelation . . .

Until you get your facts first hand, it is hard to believe that the Apache trailer, measuring only 4 x 7 feet and weighing only 340 pounds, can be quickly converted into a 7 x 11 ft. camp-home, with an off-the-ground bed and floor space for several cots. (For use by children, the interiors of the paneled-door storage compartments can also be converted into beds).

It takes only four minutes to set up the Apache for overnight camping—and it's all done from the outside. The finished job provides 77 square feet of living and sleeping space inside a one-piece tent wall and floor that keeps out cold drafts, insects and small animals. Separate door and window screens give protection against flies and mosquitoes. All access openings to the camp-home have heavy duty, two-way zipper-type fastenings.

Between stops, camping gear can be stored and carried in four, paneled-door storage compartments that provide a total of 42 cubic feet of storage space, with four access openings. At mealtime, these same compartment doors can be unlocked and let down as tables.

This ample storage space eliminates crowded conditions in the automobile or station wagon, thereby contributing to more comfortable travel. Likewise, a removable rack can be fitted to roof of the Apache to transport a boat without any trouble at all.

FWFT&T regrets that lack of editorial space prevents giving readers a series of illustrations showing the Apache's many features. However, a cord or letter to the Vesely Manufacturing Company, Box 151, Lapeer, Michigan, will promptly bring a profusely illustrated folder.

I'VE GOT THE BLUES

(Continued from Page 17)

gang is alerted and fun is on. Screaming and flying back and forth they will do all they can to rout the owl from its perch. If he continues to ignore them they eventually tire of the game and look for other sport.

Jays will even gang up on a hawk if they are sure they have a safe line of retreat and can escape if the hawk is too much to handle.

It sounds ridiculous to say that a bird's face shows expression but I am sure I have seen a Jay sitting still just wondering what to do next. He is like a small boy with no one to play with and when he can find nothing else to do he makes small-boy noises. Perhaps not "airplane noises" but some very fine ones of his own. His repertoire is amazing.

He has other little-boy ways. When he spied a cardinal under the shelter of the small hanging feeder, with only her tail visible from above, temptation was too much for him. Slipping down the wire by which the feeder is suspended, he reached down and gave her tail a swift tweak. He is full of little tricks like that.

He seems to enjoy life in general, including eating, but most of all he enjoys being a noisy pest.

Tico, my little grey-winged green parakeet enjoys the Jay's noise too. Though I have tried to teach him human talk he will have none of it. Yet he can talk Jay Bird talk perfectly and will answer them back indefinitely. He also understands and heeds the Jay's danger cry, falling all over himself to get back to his cage at the first note.

And I suppose I will have to admit that I too enjoy the Jay.

I forgive him a lot of things when he sun-bathes, or when he spits a husk of corn from the corner of his beak, like a tough fellow in a movie; or when in snatching a mouthful of grain, one piece may fly from his mouth, he catches it in mid-air without missing a swallow.

Especially I forgive him when he sings. And sing he does. Beautifully! He is almost as good as the Mocker at immitating the songs of other birds, except that he copies the short songs of some of the very small birds. And he always delivers his serenade in the softest of whispers. If you are very quiet and he is not aware of your presence you will hear almost unbelievable notes issuing from that tough character that usually produces such different sounds.

Yes, the Jay Bird is noisy, naive and annoying. He is cruel and gluttonous and a pest. He is beautiful and amusing and I think I am becoming fond of the clown.

As a matter of fact I don't know whether I've got the Blues or the Blues have got me! ●

MUZZLE FLASHES

(Continued from Page 11)

100 yards, a bullet fired from a Weatherby .300 Magnum rifle gives quick, clean penetration — as will bullets fired from other Weatherby Magnums, such as the .220 Rocket, .257, .270, 7mm, .300, 375, 378 and 460 W.M. calibers.

Among available commercial ammunition loads, none so far have been able to duplicate such bullet performance; even the government's armor-piercing .30-06 loads fail to go through the test plate.

Until the Weatherby rifles came along, it was the concensus of opinion among veteran big game hunters that a big bore, double-barreled rifle, like the English .600 Cordite with its 900-grain bullet, was needed to reliably stop tough African game like elephant, buffalo and rhino. No more!

Numerous owners of Weatherby rifles, in such calibers as .300 W.M., .375 W.M. and .378 W.M., have made phenomenal one-shot kills of our toughest game species — often at long range. Weatherby himself killed a 5-ton African elephant with a single shot from his light .378 W.M. at a range of 100 yards. On African safari with General Robert L. Scott, who downed a rhino with a .300 W. M., Weatherby tested his rifles on a large variety of dangerous game. A research technician as well as hunter, Roy Weatherby promptly made a field Dictaphone record on each hunting experience, especially of bullet effect on each animal killed. Today, his pet rifle calibers are the .300 and .257 Magnums.

The .300 Weatherby Magnum is the most powerful and flattest shooting, long range rifle that the firm has ever designed. in one package it affords a combination of killing energy, more muzzle velocity and flatter trajectory than any other Weatherby caliber. In the field, the .300 W.M. has already killed the largest and most dangerous species of game — often at extreme range. It is also a rifle that will shatter a tree trunk like a bolt of lightning. So popular has the .300 Weatherby Magnum become that the firm cannot get current on orders for this particular caliber.

Another reason you cannot send an order for a Weatherby rifle and expect to get it within a week is because no rifle of any caliber is permitted to leave the factory until it has passed every one of a long list of performance tests and work inspections.

For example, each rifle must shoot a five-shot group that does not exceed 1½ inches spread at 100 yards. The last fired test target is shipped with the rifle, so the customer may better realize the true accuracy of his new firearm.

Many Floridians already own Weatherby rifles, and several happy owners of the quick-killing weapons have made game kills at long ranges. One such as M. J. Clement III, of Pensacola, who killed an Alaskan brown bear of near record size with a single shot from a .300 caliber Weatherby at 405 measured yards. ●

BONEFISH TO BASS

(Continued from Page 23)

fighting room, were useless in Okeechobee's weed-filled waters.

"Those bass just wrap that thread around a bonnet stem and pop it off," I was told.

Hence the survival of a rig that's fun to use — but nearly forgotten in the current spinning boom: the plug rod, with level-wind casting reel.

It calls for skill — more coordination and good reflexes than does most spinning gear. We tend to become lazy, we who cast a thousand times to every one toss made with sweetwater gear.

But the added need for skill doubles — triples — the sense of achievement. The sport, and fun.

I was dubious about the terminal tackle; Lightsey and Kelly just put a leader loop in the end of black line, then changed lures easily by opening loop, slipping old lure off, passing loop through eye of new plug and doubling over the whole lure.

But the highly visible "rope" was nearly invisible in Okeechobee's coffee-colored waters. No need for slim terminal tackle, mono leaders, snap swivels.

Best of all — I'd often found salt water fish temperamental. Bucktails, spoons — pet lures sometimes failed to interest any fish. I'd hit days when a fish to every fifty casts was average angling.

Sometimes it took many, many more. One day I'd counted up more than five hundred casts, had a bare half-dozen fish to show for it.

Pet plugs on Okeechobee seem to turn up more strikes with fewer casts. I'd been converted. Up to this point my favorite fish had been bonefish—that streak of greased lightning that haunts the shoals of the Keys.

But now he'd been, if not actually replaced, at least moved over on his pedestal; he had to share the spotlight — for me — with Okeechobee bass.

I'd made a long trip — from bonefish to bass! ●

FORTY WINKS AFIELD

(Continued from Page 21)

When camping-out weather is wet or unusually cold, or a combination of both, take time to maintain two small fires throughout the day so that a ground area approximately 5x7 feet is made dry and warm. Come evening, scrape away all coals and ashes and spread your blankets or sleeping bag over the dried and heated spot. Chances will be good that your sleep will not be disturbed by gradually encroaching ground chill.

Although you may camp for years in Florida's wilds and never encounter a poisonous snake while in camp, still it is good woodsmanship to take a precautionary glance at the spot on the ground your feet will occupy when you start to step out of car or trailer, swing your feet down from a jungle hammock or arise from a folding cot.

Placing a rope on the ground around the camper's bed won't keep snakes away, as some persons believe, but bits of charcoal soaked in thio-alcohol-n-butyl mercaptan chemical will. It's a good idea to take this simple inexpensive precaution in snake country if you make your bed directly on the ground.

Despite mosquito-netting closure of tent, jungle hammock or car-bed, a few of the more determined of this pesky insect species usually somehow manage to share one's sleeping quarters—to be noisy, dining tenants the night long. The sleep-robbing nuisances can be outsmarted, however: Just take an aerosol bug bomb to bed with you and, after the mosquito-netting has been fastened in place, distribute a few squirts of the bug bomb throughout the enclosed sleeping area; then, pleasant dreams!

Another good idea is to tie your flashlight to one end of a length of cord, knot a loop in the other end and fasten it with a safety pin near the head of your bed so you can locate your flashlight quickly and easily should you need it during the night.

Whatever your choice of outdoor bed, use wool blankets exclusively. Cotton blankets and comforters tend to absorb moisture, bunch up and usually fail to provide the desired degree of warmth. Various weights of wool blankets are available from many sources, so finding wool blankets to match climatic conditions and personal preference should not be a problem in preparing to enjoy forty winks afield.

If weather permits, camp bedding should be aired and sunned daily during periods of use. Otherwise, it will sour and mildew. After use afield, and before storage, items should be cleaned or repaired if needed.

Plan now to get full forty winks on your next overnight camping trip. ●

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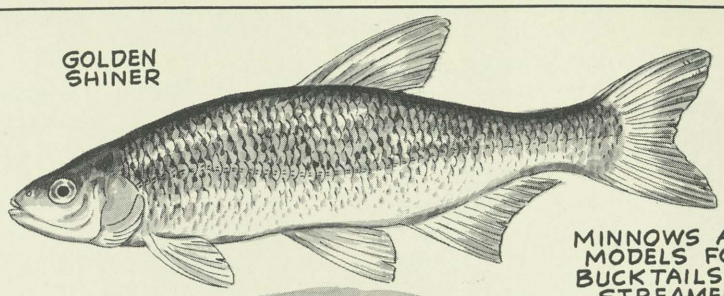
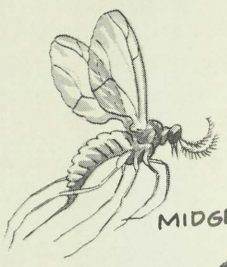
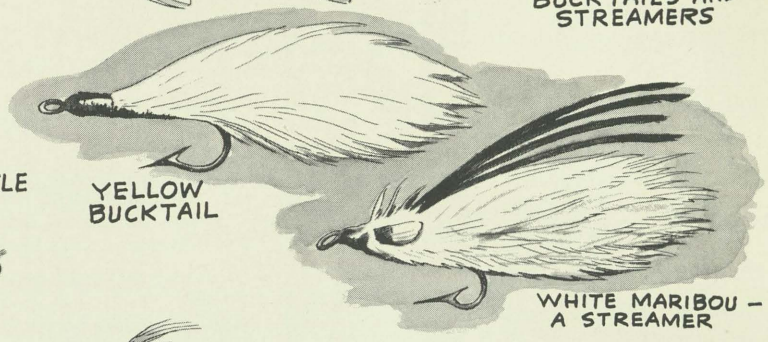
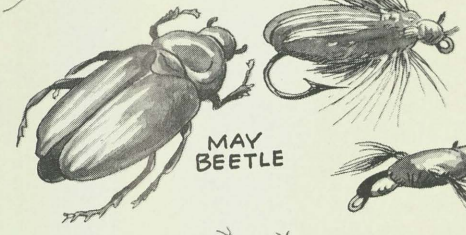
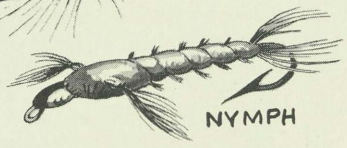


MINNOWS ARE MODELS FOR BUCKTAILS AND STREAMERS

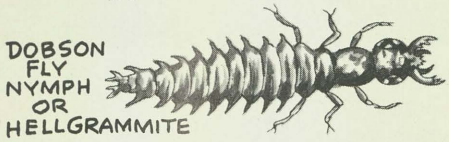


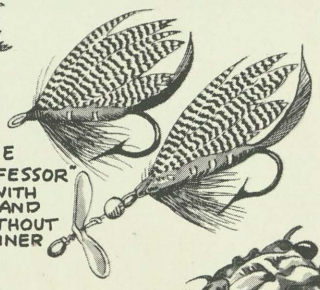


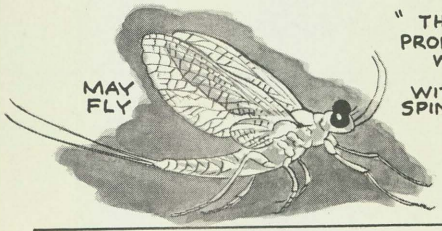




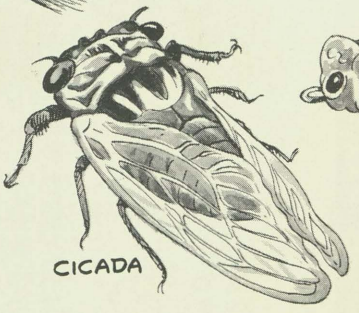
TRUE ARTIST AMONG FISHERMEN IS THE FLY FISHERMAN • AT LEAST WHEN IT COMES TO CREATING LURES TO TAKE FISH • FLY TYING IS AN INTERESTING AND CREATIVE HOBBY AMONG MANY OUTDOORSMEN • MADE OF HAIR, FEATHERS, THREAD OR WHAT-HAVE-YOU, FLIES ARE USUALLY PATTERNED AFTER NATURAL FISH FOOD SUCH AS MINNOWS, FROGS, MICE, LAND INSECTS AND WATER INSECTS





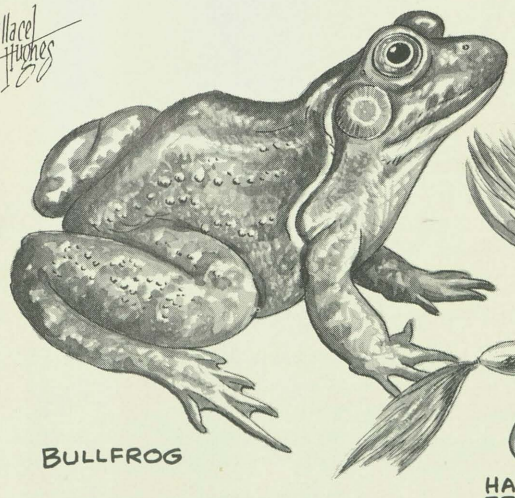


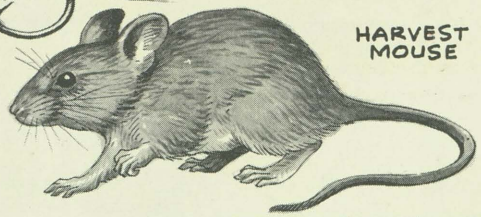
FISHING FLIES ARE CLASSIFIED AS FOLLOWS: DRY FLIES – WET FLIES – STREAMERS AND BUCKTAILS – NYMPHS – ANTS AND BEETLES – FLY AND SPINNER COMBINATIONS – HAIR BUG AND POPPING BUGS – SALT WATER FLIES



FLIES COME IN SEVERAL SIZES AND ARE USED TO CATCH BASS, BREAM, CRAPPIE AND OTHER FISHES

Wallace Hughes '67





HAIR BUGS

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